KSJ
2001
»WELCOME NEW CENTURY«
DEC 2001

Demian Syndrome 2

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Pre-Second Stage ①
S.O.S.
scratch of symptom

面談室

clack

NADAKA HAS COME TO SEE YOU

TAKAYAMA, YOU SHOULD ALSO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT YOU SAID DON'T FORGET THAT YOU HAVE TO RESPECT YOUR ELDERS

IF YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, YOU SHOULD GO BACK TODAY

THIS IS JUST A GUESS.
BUT YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH THE TEACHER TOO, RIGHT?
HERE'S YOUR INHALER.
PUFF
PUFF
IT'S TOO OLD-FASHIONED TO SAY THAT ASTHMA IS JUST A PSYCHOLOGICAL WEAKNESS!
IT'S LIKE TELLING A CROW WITH BROKEN WINGS, "TRY HARDER! ALL YOU NEED IS THE WILL TO FLY!"
GAVE ME A BREAK! I HATE IDIOTS LIKE THAT!
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!
IT'S AN INTERESTING METAPHOR.
LIKE ALWAYS.
RATHER THAN FOLLOWING OTHER PEOPLE'S RULES IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART
RECENTLY
I'VE ALSO BEEN THINKING ABOUT CHURCH DOCTRINE.
WHY A CROW?
I SAW ONE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW DURING THE SERMON.
PUFF
HE WAS SITTING ON A CHAIR.

YOU'VE GOT A ONE TRACK MIND!!

YOU WERE GOING ON ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY FOR 2 HOURS YESTERDAY TOO

DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE?

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU REMINDED ME OF A QUOTE IN A BOOK I ONCE READ

I WAS THINKING WE COULD LOOK IT UP IN THE LIBRARY ON OUR WAY BACK

BACK THEN, I WAS SUCH AN ANNOYING AND NEEDY BRAT

THIS CURED ME

I'M TOTALLY FINE NOW

OKAY, LET'S GO!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SICK

jump

THE TAKASHI AZUMA FROM 4 YEARS AGO (BACK THEN, HIS SURNAME WAS NADAKA) HE WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE PERFECT STUDENT HE IS NOW.

JO...

I WAS SO BENT ON QUESTIONING EVERYTHING ABOUT MYSELF AND OTHERS THAT I COMPLETELY ISOLATED MYSELF

IT'S A MIRACLE THAT SOMEONE AS PRICKLY AS I WAS HAD A FRIEND LIKE HIM

A FOOL WHO JUST CAN'T HELP HIMSELF

I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A LITTLE CONCEPT CALLED—

"BEING REALISTIC ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO AND NOT DOING STUFF THAT YOU OBVIOUSLY CAN'T."

SQUEEZE

IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS DO THAT?

BUT IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE WE QUARRELED ALL THE TIME ABOUT NOTHING

THAT WE WERE ABLE TO BE SO HONEST WITH EACH OTHER

BITE ME.

HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT?

THE TWO OF US WERE ALWAYS BY OURSELVES

THAT'S WHY HIS SMILING FACE WAS SO DEAR TO ME.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, BASTARD?

INVALIDS SHOULD JUST STAY AT HOME!

DON'T WASTE OUR TIME!

UMM...

TAKA-YAMA
THEY JUST SUD-DENLY...
ARE THEY YOUR FRIENDS?
SOMEHOW I DOUBT IT
HMPH
YOU'RE TOO KIND
HEY, YUKI!
SHUT THE HELL...
UP!
HAH!
EVADE
SWISH
TWACK
YOU..
GAH!
KICK
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO USE YOUR FEET LIKE..
THIS !?

IDIOT
GOOD GRIEF, IS HE AT IT AGAIN...!?
THEY'RE MAKING SO MUCH NOISE!
EH?
JERK!
HEY YOU!
GET HIM!
PLEASE STOP ...
PL...
BASTARD!
PUSH
WAH!
!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
HEY!
!
YOU'RE THE ONE ACTING UP!
YOU ONLY JUST GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL! BEHAVE YOURSELF, YOU STUPID IDIOT!
YOU
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
WE'RE GONE!
YOU'RE ALL CRAZY!
THERE'S A POLICE BOX RIGHT OVER THERE
A COP'S GOING TO COME SOON, SO UNLESS YOU WANT TO QUIETLY GO WITH HIM...
YOU TWO !!
IF YOU EVER ACT UP AGAIN, I'LL ..

THIS AUTUMN I TRANSFERRED INTO THE 4TH GRADE AT JOHOKU ACADEMY (YEAR 10)
ACTUALLY, 2 WEEKS AGO I TOOK A DIVE FROM THE ROOFTOP OF OUR DORMITORY
MIRACULOUSLY MY ONLY INJURY WAS ONE BROKEN LEG
LUCKY!
WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?
MY NAME IS JOUICHIROU TAKAYAMA
UNTIL TWO AND A HALF MONTHS AGO I WAS LIVING IN AMERICA WITH MY FATHER
UMM
IS THIS OKAY?
UH
THE POLICEMEN AREN'T REALLY GOING TO COME... ARE THEY?
BY THE WAY WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AZUMA?
I WAS AT THE BOOK STORE
OH
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ANYWAY?
WELL
I STOP BY THE PARK SOMETIMES, AND I SAW YUKI...
THIS GUY'S NAME IS NOW TAKASHI AZUMA
HE'S MY ROOMMATE
IDIOT I WAS BLUFFING

THEN IT WASN'T A BIG PROBLEM?
NOT UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG!
SATURDAY
AND WHEN I WAS COMING BACK FROM MY TEACHER'S HOUSE I BUMPED INTO THEM SUDDENLY
SINCE THE CURRICULUM IS STRICT TODAY IS THE ONLY TIME WHEN IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE INDEPENDENT LESSONS
I...
I HAVE FLUTE LESSONS TODAY, SO
ACTUALLY, WHAT HAPPENED TO MY LEG WAS PRETTY MUCH ALL THIS KID'S FAULT
BUT I'M OVER THAT NOW
WHAT?
PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
THEY MUST HAVE FRIENDS AROUND HERE
PROBABLY ONE OF THE STUDENTS AT OUR SCHOOL
I...
WOW! THOSE GUYS SURE RUN FAST!
IS HE STILL DOING THAT?
I'M SO SORRY TAKA-YAMA!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
UHM...
BOOM
AZUMA? TOO!
I HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS
BY THE WAY

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M AROUND TO SAVE YOU ALL THE TIME!
AFTER ALL .
THEY'LL TAKE THE CAST OFF IN ABOUT A WEEK
LOOK
ONLY IF YOU TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF!
KICK
WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?
WHAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN HELP IT! I CAN'T JUST IGNORE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
WAIT UP! LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER!
HEY!
STALKS OFF
...ANYWAY, WHATEVER.
THE TRUTH IS THAT IN THE THREE AND A HALF YEARS WE WERE SEPARATED, OUR PERFECT FRIENDSHIP COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED
FLOGGS PROBLEM
GEEZ! CAN'T YOU SLOW DOWN?
HUH?
BUT ISN'T THE BOOK-STORE IN THE OPPO-SITE DIREC-TION ?
RIGHT NOW WE'RE REALLY TRYING HARD TO PATCH THINGS UP!
I DON'T THINK HE'S LISTEN-ING...

NOPE IT'S DESERTED
HEY! ARE THE BATHS CROWDED?
I GUESS
IT MUST BE AWFUL WITH YOUR FEET LIKE THAT
WRAPPED IN PLASTIC
JERK!
HE'S BEEN SO COLD I ALMOST WENT HOME
THAT FOR THE LAST TWO AND A HALF MONTHS AZUMA HAS BEEN WEARING THE SOUREST EXPRESSION POSSIBLE
rub
rub
LIMP
MUST BE
I GUESS IT WAS ALL JUST A BIT TOO MUCH
YEAH
THE FACE HE NEVER SHOWS ME...
IT'S JUST LIKE I REMEMBER IT...
AGAIN
IT'S THE SAME WHENEVER HE'S ON THE PHONE
I WONDER WHO HE'S TALKING TO...
TAP

HE NEVER LOOKS AT ME LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

I'M HANDING BACK YOUR TEST RESULTS

BUT!

DISTURBINGLY, THOSE 3 WERE THE ONLY ONES TO SCORE IN THE 90S

THE TOP MARK WAS AZUMA, WHO GOT 97 POINTS. AFTER THAT, NADAKA AND YAMAMOTO TIED WITH 93 POINTS EACH

COME AND COLLECT THEM IN THE ORDER THAT I CALL YOUR NAME

FLAP

GEH!

LOOKS LIKE YOU STUDIED HARD WHILE YOU WERE AWAY.

CAN EVERYONE PLEASE FACE THE FRONT?

NEXT, THERE WERE 7 PEOPLE WHO SCORED IN THE 70S.

NEXT, TAKAYAMA SCORED 82 POINTS

NEXT, THERE WERE 4 PEOPLE WHO SCORED IN THE 80S WHICH I SUPPOSE IS STILL ACCEPTABLE.

NAGANO SCORED 87. KURIHARA

IS THIS A TEST OR AN EXECUTION?

GOD!

DO YOU BRATS EVEN KNOW WHAT STUDYING IS!?

MATHEMATICS IS AN ART!!

AND THE REST OF YOU FAILED! IT'S A DISGRACE!!

BARBARIANS!!

HEY! HEY!

YOU'RE CRAZY TO EVEN TRY TO COMPETE WITH AZUMA.

GENIUSES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF US...

GO AWAY

Come to wage war

THAT'S BECAUSE I LISTEN IN CLASS

MATH IS JUST LIKE A GAME ANYWAY

AZUMA!

WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO NO 6! NO 6!

YOU'RE A FREAK! I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN YOU STUDY AT THE DORMS!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!!

TAKA-YAMA !!

YOU TRAITOR!!

KURA-CHI.

SHAKE SHAKE

82 POINTS!?

I ONLY GOT HALF THAT!

YOU ONLY JUST ARRIVED, AND SINCE THEN YOU'VE BEEN BUSY WITH CLUBS, AND THEN YOU GOT HOSPITALIZED... SO WHAT'S WITH THAT SCORE?!

YOU... HOW THE HELL DID YOU DO IT?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!

THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU GUYS USED TO BE MUCH MORE DISTANT!

GOSSIP

AND SINCE WHEN W'S KURACHI SO ATTACHED TO YOU...?

IT'S BIZARRE!

YEAH!

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT AZUMA'S ALSO CHANGED A LOT MORE THAN HIS NAME!

Azuma's Desk

GOSSIP

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED, TAKAYAMA.

I REMEMBER BEING SURPRISED WHEN HE CALLED HIMSELF SOMETHING DIFFERENT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OPENING CEREMONY
HEY, AZUMA!!
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!!
SO WHEN DID HE TAKE THE NAME AZUMA THEN?
IT WAS DIFFERENT THEN.
WHAT? WASN'T HE CALLED AZUMA IN PRIMARY SCHOOL?
NO WAY!
WHAT WAS IT?
REALLY?
IT WAS REALLY SUDDEN FOR BOTH OF THEM
IT TOOK ME HALF A YEAR TO REALIZE
YEAH! I THOUGHT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT PERSON
I THINK EVERYONE WAS SURPRISED
I TOTALLY FORGOT
BUT TO BE HONEST, I WAS EVEN MORE SURPRISED THAT TAKAYAMA WASN'T THERE!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE AN IDIOT
DON'T YOU GUYS KNOW? THEY USED TO BE BEST FRIENDS
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AZUMA SMILE?
I'M GOING OUTSIDE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN ACTUALLY BEAR TO SHARE A ROOM WITH HIM, TAKAYAMA
YOU MEAN YOU TWO, RIGHT?
IDIOT
NO 6
AH, AZUMA!
JUST KEEP DISCUSSING MY PRIVATE LIFE, WHY DON'T YOU?

HUH?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN? YOU'RE LIMPING MORE THAN USUAL.
OH!
WHAT'S WRONG, TAKAYAMA?
AHAHA
OH NO! HOW SILLY!
HEY, DON'T JUST DISMISS MY PROBLEMS AS STUPID!
GOOD GRIEF
RIP
A QUARREL? JUST GET OVER IT
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT CRAZY CAPTAIN OF YOURS
IT'S A GOOD THING AZUMA'S KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU NOW.
MY GOODNESS IT'S TERRIBLE HOW THE PEOPLE ON THE SOCCER TEAM ARE CONSTANTLY INJURING THEMSELVES
OW!
RIGHT?
WHAT ELSE HURTS?
SLAP

HE'S SO SUP-PORTIVE
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED THAT HE'S BEEN TAKING THIS WAY HOME A LOT LATELY?
WHAT?
I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL
YOU'VE ALSO HELPED HIM A LOT
HE'S BEEN SO STRESSED LATELY
IT ARE
WHAT?
LOOKS AWAY
NOTH-ING...

THE PEELER GETS RID OF MOST OF THE SKIN
THUMP
THUMP
AFTER THAT, WE HAVE TO DO IT BY HAND.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN FEEL THIS MANY
THESE CHORES ARE IMPOSSIBLE
TWIST
IT'S COLD
THUMP
THUMP
THERE ARE 150 BOARDERS WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT?
IT SUITS YOU
BUT DON'T CHANGE IT
YOU'RE NOT HELPING
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ANYMORE
HEY
LMM.
SILENCE
THAT HAIRSTYLE IS WEIRD
FROM THE FRONT YOU LOOK LIKE AN Ede.
WHAT?
HOW ODD

SO WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

EH? OH

I'VE BEEN GOING TO THE CLUB

DID TAKUTO REALLY GET YOU TO JOIN? HOW?

I KIND OF HAD TO

SCRATCH SCRATCH

WOULDN'T LEAVE ME ALONE.

HE'S INSANELY PERSISTENT

WE SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE NOW, EVEN WITH YOU STILL RECUPERATING

YOU SECRETLY WANTED TO PLAY, RIGHT?

...?

YOU ACT LIKE IT'S A PAIN, BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN REALLY GOOD AT SPORTS

ANOTHER MOMENT INVOLVING GREAT TIMING

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU IN ACTION ♪

SULK

I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP

EH? WHAT?

LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY HELP

THAT'S WHAT TAKUTO SAID EARLIER.

THE NURSE TOO

SINCE YOU'RE NOT DENYING IT, IT MUST BE TRUE

THAT GUY'S GOT GREAT TIMING, DOESN'T HE?

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE FEMALE STUDENTS

THEY TALK ABOUT THE STUPIDEST THINGS.

IT WAS THE SAME WHEN I WAS IN AMERICA

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

LAUGH

AND WHAT ABOUT ALL HIS BAD HABITS? SOME HOBBY!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... THAT SORT OF THING JUST HAPPENS BECAUSE THE GIRLS HAVE THEIR OWN SCHOOL.

GEEZ! YOU LOOK SO PISSED!

YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW?

I SEE YOU TALKING ON THE PHONE A LOT, WEARING THE SWEETEST EXPRESSION.

YOU...

HAH! GOTCHA!

WHO IS IT?

AHA! HOW REVEALING! SO YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SOMEONE ELSE?

THE ONE YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING TO ON THE PHONE?

IS SHE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

THEN WERE YOU TALKING TO YOUR MOTHER?

TAKAYA-MA!

OH? WAS I WRONG?

WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?
DID I STEP ON A LANDMINE?
IF THAT'S IT...
STOP IT!!
DO YOU CALL IT FRIENDSHIP TO PRY INTO PEOPLE'S PRIVATE LIVES!?
LOOK...
YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO READ YOUR MIND.
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING, I WON'T KNOW IT IF I'M BEING INSENSITIVE.
I ONLY...
I'M NOT GOING TO JUST SHARE EVERYTHING LIKE GIRLS DO!
WELL, WHAT SHOULD I DO THEN!?
YOU TELL ME!!
STAB

WHEN WE WERE KIDS, I THOUGHT WE UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE FAILED.
I REALLY WANT TO UNDERSTAND YOU.
THIS TIME...
I...
!!!
I'M NOT LYING TO YOU.
I'LL REALLY TRY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME NOT TO GO.
I...
I'M SORRY.

AZUMA
IS IT SO HARD FOR YOU TO TALK TO ME?
HUH?
I...
AZUMA
YOU ALWAYS MAKE THAT FACE IT'S SERIOUSLY WEIRD
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE GOING BALD OR SOMETHING
SPLASH
JO
YOU.
LET'S JUST EEL THE POTATOES AND END THIS WHOLE WRETCHED CONVERSATION.
TAKA-YAMA
SINCE WHEN...
I NEVER WANTED TO MAKE YOU SO UPSET
WHY?

HEY!

HEY, AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP ME?!

THE DORM LEADER SAID THAT YOU'D HELP ME!

EH?

BUT I HATE PEELING POTATOES ANYWAY!

DAMN IT, THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!

YOU STOPPED PEELING AGES AGO!

OKAY WHATEVER! IT WON'T KILL ANYONE IF THERE'S STILL A BIT OF PEEL LEFT...

LET'S JUST WASH THE MUD OFF AND END IT HERE.

NOPE THEY'VE BEEN ARGUING FOR AGES

WHAT? THEY'RE NOT FINISHED YET?

天罰

DON'T YOU THINK SO, AZUMA?

Wants to point out that that Inaie is crazy, but knows that if he does, they'll never start working.

.....

WE'RE HERE TO STUDY!

SO IT'S POINTLESS TO WASTE SO MUCH TIME ON THE POTATO SALAD!

PEOPLE EAT IT REALLY QUICKLY, RIGHT?

BESIDES IT'S JUST BREAKFAST.

I WAS TRYING TO CALL MY DAD BUT HE WASN'T THERE
SORRY
AH.
LAUGHT
HEY!
GEEZ...
WHO'S OVER THERE?
IT'S PAST LIGHT'S OUT!
※
※ THEY RETURED TO THE DORM LEADER'S ROOM.
CAN I HAVE 2 SUGARS?
PLEASE
WHY YOU...!
IT MUST BE TOUGH GETTING IN TOUCH WITH HIM.
ISN'T HE IN PEKING?
SHIBA!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY THE HELL THERE'S A WALL AT ALL?!
BUT...
SO IT'S A PRETTY HIGH WALL TO CLIMB EH?
I GUESS SO
BUT KEEP AT IT!
I'M SURE YOU CAN FIX THINGS!
FIGHT!
AND WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
DID IT GO WELL?
THERE ARE 3 MONTHS LEFT BEFORE YOU GRADUATE RIGHT?
BEFORE THEN, I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO SHOW YOU AZUMA LAUGHING HIMSELF SICK!!

REALLY?
YOU BET!
BUT DO YOUR BEST!
OKAY!
THAT'S QUITE A CHALLENGE.
A man who has tried for 4 years with no success.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
TAKAYAMA.
IT'S FROM THE GOSPEL. YOU OFTEN READ IT IN SCHOOL.
"DOORS ARE TO BE BROKEN DOWN...NOT OPENED FROM WITHIN."
SOME ADVICE FOR YOU.
GOOD NIGHT.
PATAN
OKAY.
NIGHT!
I'M TOO NICE.
DRAT! I FORGOT TO SCOLD HIM

HUH?

ARE YOU OKAY?

HEY, AZUMA!

AZUMA!

YOU WERE MOANING AGAIN...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT IS IT?

JO...

WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

NOTHING. I'M SORRY I WOKE YOU.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

YOU SAID "LOOK OUT FOR THE SPLINTER."

IT DOES...?

IT HAPPENS OCCASIONALLY.

HEY...

THUD
GO BACK TO THE ROOM.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD OUT HERE.
CLOSE
I NEED TO CLEAR MY HEAD JUST GO BACK TO SLEEP
AZUMA...
I KNEW YOU'D BE UP HERE.
TYPICAL.
DROP
THAT'S MY LINE, IDIOT.

I ALSO GET NIGHTMARES SOMETIMES...
DON'T WORRY I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED
BACK THEN...
YOU WERE HAVING A NIGHT-MARE?
LIFE'S PRETTY BUSY HERE AT JOHOKU, SO I TEND TO FORGET THEM AFTER A WHILE...
YEAH
ALTHOUGH IT'S ...ALL BAD WHATEVER BRAND YOU SMOKE!
WHAT IS THIS, PEACE? THEY'RE INCREDIBLY STRONG! THESE ARE THE ONES OLD GUYS SMOKE!
NO KID ACTUALLY CAN'T SMOKES BELIEVE THESE!
AND THEY'VE EXPIRED TOO...
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
NOT AGAIN! WHEN THE HELL DID YOU START...
BAD!
PLAY-ING THE SECRET DELIN-QUENT!
I THOUGHT SO TOO. SO WHY AM I NOW...
HEY!!
FLICK

HE USED TO CHEER ME UP...
HE WAS LIKE MY SAVIOR...
IT REMINDS ME OF MY GRANDPA.
FLICK
YOU'RE SMOKING TOO MUCH!!
IT'S NOT POISONING ME
AND SO...
IT'S STILL BAD!
YOUR GRANDPA WOULD BE HORRIFIED TO FIND OUT THAT HIS GRANDSON WAS POISONING HIMSELF WITH THE SAME CIGARETTES HE DID!
EVEN SO...
PUFF
I'LL BE THE ONE WHO HONORS YOUR GRANDPA INSTEAD.
CAN I BE YOUR GRANDMA TOO, IF YOU WANT?

CAN I JUST SAY ONE THING?
WHAT?
DID I IMAGINE THAT?
JUST NOW...
HUH?
...SO DON'T SMOKE IT!
THIS IS FOUL.
SERIOUSLY REVOLTING!
HEY!
I JUST TOLD YOU IT'S BAD AND YOU DID IT AGAIN!
ANOTHER CIGARETTE!
SAY SOMETHING YOU SULKY GIT!
THE TWO OF US WERE ALWAYS BY OURSELVES
AND THAT'S WHY THE GLIMPSE OF AZUMA'S SMILING FACE WAS SO DEAR TO ME
AND ALSO
IT REKINDLED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD RETURN TO HOW WE USED TO BE
LONG, LONG AGO
S.O.S. Ende

デミアン症候群2

Demian Syndrome

Mamiya Oki Presents

沖麻実也

CHARA COMICS

Chara COMICS

デミアン症候群

2

沖麻実也

徳間書店

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定価：本体533円＋税

離れていた3年半の時間を取り戻したい。
再会した東と親友に戻ったはずの高山。けれど、東はまだ何かを隠しているらしい。そんな時、問題児だが人気者の卒業生・小林と出会う。
小林は、高山がいない間の東を知っていた。
この人と優等生の東が、なぜ知り合いなんだ？
不審がる高山に、なぜか小林が近づいてきて!?

CHARA COMICS

Demain Syndrome
Volume 02 Chapter 07

Scanned by Yuriko
Translated by Arashi
Edited by Capella
Quality Checked by Kalendel

www.storminheaven.com
#storminheaven@irchighway.net

STORM IN HEAVEN

Pre-Second Stage ②
A TUNNEL PANIC
the first part

THE THREE OF US MADE SUCH A STRANGE GROUP
THEY WERE BOTH SO TALL AND SMART EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM WAS TOP CLASS
IT WAS AT THAT TIME THAT I DEVELOPED AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX

4 Years Ago

Johoku Academy Primary School

KICK

KURACHI TOO..

HEY TAKA-YAMA

THAT MOUNTAIN'S PRETTY BIG WE SHOULD HAVE A LOOK OVER THERE

RUSTLE RUSTLE

WOW-COO-

DON'T PILE THEM UP!

I BET YOU COULD FIT 100 POTATOES IN HERE!

SNAP CRACKLE

Swish

Pul yeah, I agree

ENOUGH ALREADY KURACHI!

GRITT

HOW OLD ARE YOU ANYWAY?! YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!

You're pissing me off!

STOP ACTING STUPID,

BRAT!!

Swish

Swish

SHOCK

WHA...?

GO SWEEP OVER THERE!!

WHAT MAKES YOU SO HIGH AND MIGHTY!?

I WAS JUST MESSING AROUND!

Bite me!

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A CRIME OR ANY-THING!

Hey

THAT'S ENOUGH YOU GUYS

OH YEAH!? YOU...

Take that!

JERK!!

Sfx: whoosh

!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NADAKA!?

You shielded him!

cough

There was even gravel in it

Sfx: dust

もわっ

AH.

Hey!

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!

AH! WAIT!

dash

glance

..!

WHAT DID YOU DO, KURACHI?

You're such a brat!

Boys wear a uniform. Girls wear normal clothes.

Why me!?

IT'S TAKAYAMA'S FAULT!! HE JUST RAN OFF!!

Here's the dustpan

Thanks.

IN THE SECOND TERM OF SIXTH GRADE THERE WERE THREE BOYS AND THREE GIRLS IN OUR GROUP.

THE GIRLS WERE ALWAYS THE BEST OF FRIENDS. BUT THE THREE OF US WERE ALWAYS...

SPLIT 2:1

Elite

Commoner

IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST ANYWAY, WHAT WITH THE DUST AND ALL

The bell just rang.

HE'LL JUST START COUGHING AGAIN. IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA FOR HIM TO TAKE A BREAK. MIKO IS ALSO SITTING THIS ONE OUT.

!

I NEVER EVEN WANTED TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH THEM

NOT UNTIL THAT DAY

cough cough

START

NADAKA...?

OH...

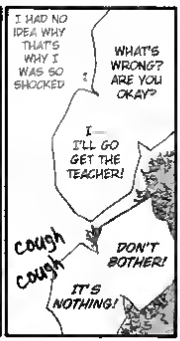
TA...

TAKA-YAMA?!

!

HE...

HE LOOKS SERIOUSLY ILL!



HE'S PRETTY STUBBORN

KURA-CHI...

CAN YOU JUST LEAVE US ALONE?

It's not my fault!

SHUT UP!!

SORRY

SINCE NADAKA'S HERE, I'M COMPLETELY UNWANTED?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHY IS HE APOLOGIZING TO ME?

NADA-KA!

You can't believe this!

AND THEN...

Damn it!!

Treating me like a kid! I hate it!

YOU THINK I'M THAT WORTH-LESS?!

WHAT'S WITH THAT!? STUPID BAS-TARD..

KICK

AND BESIDES

One more thing.

MY NAME ISN'T NADAKA ANYMORE IT'S AZUMA

CALL ME BY THE RIGHT NAME

WHAT?!

THAT'S BECAUSE HE WENT TO AMERICA WITH HIS FATHER

TAKAYAMA WASN'T AT THE OPENING CEREMONY!

WHY!? HE COULD'VE STAYED IN THE DORMS

I DON'T KNOW WHY

LATER

The ceremony is starting.

ANGER

WHAT THE !

NO ONE TOLD ME!!

HEY!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!

WHAT'S WITH THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

YOU CAN BOTH GO TO HELL!!

YOU NEVER THOUGHT TO TELL ME!?

It's not like I ever wanted to be your friend anyway!

grin
WE'RE THROUGH !!
I'M GOING TO FORGET I EVER KNEW EITHER OF YOU!
I'M NEVER TALKING TO YOU AGAIN!
WHAT'S UP, KURACHI? YOU LOOK SO SOUR.
I'VE FINISHED POLISHING THE FIXTURES
Are you done yet, Kurachi?
U.S. SOAPER

ARE YOU HUNGRY ALREADY? WE ONLY JUST ATE

I AM SO!!

TAKAYAMA, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GUY?

HE'S NOT DOING ANY WORK AT ALL!

WHY AM I SUDDENLY THINKING ABOUT JBACK THEN?

I WONDER

Will you just listen to me?!

SAY WHAT!?

BUT DON'T YOU GUYS THINK THIS PLACE IS COOL?

LAZY BASTARD!

ARE YOU SAYING I HAVE TO WORK MYSELF TO DEATH?!

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT STUFF!

YEAH I CAN TOTALLY FEEL THE HISTORY FROM THE BROKEN WINDOWS AND THE CONSTANT DRAFTS

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO THRILLED IN ALL MY LIFE

HAHAA

It's like there's a divine aura

OUR FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS PROBABLY ALSO HAD TO POLISH THE SAME BRASS FITTINGS THAT WE DO EVERYTHING'S STEEPED IN HISTORY.

WE SHOULD TREAT THEM WITH REVERENCE

THESE LIBRARY ARCHIVES WERE BUILT BACK BEFORE WORLD WAR TWO!

I might have guessed!

YOU WERE GOOFING OFF AGAIN!

Tsk Tsk

I WAS WORKING REALLY HARD...

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT

I saw it through a hole in the wall

WHAT!?

REALLY?

C'mon! I'll show you! ♡

ISN'T THAT A STORAGE CLOSET? IT'S ALWAYS LOCKED...

NOPE IT'S ACTUALLY A REALLY TINY ROOM

IF YOU LOOK INSIDE, THERE ARE SOME SECRET STAIRS LEADING UP TO THE ROOF...

IT PERMEATES THE WALLS. THERE'S SO MUCH IN HERE

DID YOU GUYS KNOW THAT THERE'S A TINY DOOR ON THE 2ND FLOOR?

THERE'S PROBABLY A BASEMENT OR SOMETHING DOWN HERE TOO

BUT ACTUALLY...

IF THERE IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT UPSTAIRS...

ARE YOU GUYS SERIOUS!? HOW OLD ARE YOU ANYWAY..

OR BEHIND THE PICTURE FRAMES

YOU'RE RIGHT!

MAYBE UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS!

Ehhhh

Ehhhh

.....

HEY KURA-CHI...
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS
DON'T JUST SIT THERE YOU'LL GET YOUR CLOTHES DIRTY...
Open
I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING IN THERE
YEAH LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST A JANITOR'S CLOSET
Pull
I SHOULD JUST LEAVE!
WHAT THE...?!
WHAT'S WRONG, KASA-HARA?
OH!
Knock Knock
CAN YOU OPEN IT?
I DUNNO...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Scrape
WANT TO TRY TO MOVE IT?
YEAH!
Get set.
Pull

HEY!
LOOK, TRY OVER THERE!
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A DOOR HIDDEN IN THE SHADOW OF THOSE BOXES...
thump thump
DAMN! IT WON'T OPEN!
LIKE IT'S STUCK OR SOME-THING
thud
WHAT?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?! THAT'S A SLIDING DOOR!
MOVE!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
Flying Kick
SMASH
Twa!
Sfx: KICK
NO
KURA-CHI!
WAA ...
HUH ..?
Slip
GRASH
Fall

!!
KURACHI! TAKA-YAMA!?
YOU MUST BE CRAZY!!
THUD
THUD
CRASH
HOW!!
HUD
push
ARE YOU OKAY!?
KURA-CHI!!
AAAH!!
SHUT UP! WHAT THE HELL JUST...
TAKA-YAMA!
!
HUH?

TA...
TAKA-YAMA!?
HEY, CAN YOU HEAR ME!?
TAKA-YAMA!!
No way!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
KURA-CHI!!
KA...KAGA-HARA!!
GET HELP!!
NO...
I'M FINE!
I JUST BLACKED OUT FOR A MOMENT...
Haha
Ow Ow
Rub

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CLIMB OUT...

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET BACK UP?

It's about a 2.5 meter drop.

BUT AS FOR HIM...

No way

Yeah

THAT'S OKAY. I'LL GO GET A LADDER.

Don't even try it

THIS LEG IS SUCH A PAIN! IT PROBABLY WON'T SUPPORT THAT MUCH PRESSURE.

Wobble

NO. I'M REALLY OKAY

Ow Ow Ow! It hurts to move.

DUMB JERK! HOW CAN YOU ACTUALLY SAY THAT?

AND DON'T MOVE!

HOW ABOUT YOU?

OH.

Hey!!

SO IT TURNS OUT THERE IS A BASEMENT!

Ha ha

GEEZ.

ANYWAY, CAN YOU PASS ME...

HIS CRUTCH?

Oh

THANKS! ♡

I DON'T NEED IT!

OKAY, JUST A MINUTE.

Bye!

Stomp

Stomp

It's not true!
OH MY GOD!!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT!?
An underground
underground
shock
MAYBE IT'S A PRISON CELL.
IT'S TOO DIRTY TO BE A ROOM.
BUT I WONDER WHAT THIS PLACE IS?
AND I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU TOO!!
AH!
DON'T LAUGH AT ME!
ha ha ha
You're so funny!
YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO BREAK IN A PRISON DOOR.
OF COURSE NOT!
Damn you!
Flying Kick?
I MEAN ...
YOU'VE DEALT WITH SO MUCH STUFF ALREADY...
I'M SO USELESS.
IT WAS JUST A JOKE.
Back then.
I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
Especially in this place
HAD FREAKED OUT LIKE YOU DID BEFORE
IF YOU

THE TAKA-YAMA FROM BEFORE ...

HE WOULD NEVER HAVE SMILED LIKE THAT...

IT WAS SO DIFFICULT TO GET ON WITH HIM BECAUSE HE ARGUED ABOUT EVERY-THING...

ANYWAY

WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK UNTIL KASA-HARA COMES BACK

I'M SORRY

AND I'M FINE NOW... REALLY! SO LET'S JUST FORGET IT. OKAY?

CRISH

SHOCK

SQUAWK

KURA-CHI!!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE UN-DERGROUND NOW!

THIS IS BAD I CAN'T DEAL WITH THESE KINDS OF SITUA-TIONS

I REALLY HATE SMALL DARK PLACES!

IS IT BE-CAUSE HE'S CHANGED?

OR IS IT ME...?

IT'S A GOOD THING I HAVE THE CRUTCH TO LEAN ON

Owl mm ill

I NEVER EVEN REALIZED HOW EASY IT IS TO TALK TO TAKAYAMA NOW

IT'S AN UNDER-GROUND TUNNEL!

EH!!

COME TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

KURA-CHI!!

WH... WHAT!?

SHIT

LADDER, LADDER...

DAMN, NOT HERE EITHER!

NO WAY...

Yuuki

UH, NO... NOT REALLY...

DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

I WAS TOLD TO WASH THE EVES

he he

I'LL FIND SOME-THING ELSE

Ah!

HEY!

THAT...

puff

I have to hurry!

?
Oh!
SO THAT'S WHERE IT IS!
Might have known...
dash dash
Thank-a! ♡
puff
puff
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND A LADDER?
WHAT ABOUT BEHIND THE ARTS BUILDING?
I'VE LOOKED EVERY-WHERE...
dash
AZUMA!!
SORRY WE CAN GO NOW
WHO KNOWS? MORE IMPOR-TANTLY
My arms are about to fall off...
HEAVY
Oh?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, AZUMA...
WHAT DID HE WANT?
I WONDER WHERE IT LEADS?
HUP!

WHY NOT?
IT'S PART OF THE BUILDING
JUST LOOK HOW UNSTABLE THAT DOOR WAS! THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING IN THERE!
WHAT?
Oh!
What!?
No way!
WE'RE UNDER-GROUND! IT'S DANGEROUS! WHAT IF IT CAVES IN ON US?!
LET'S TAKE A LOOK
AND CHECK THIS OUT!
THE WALLS ARE REINFORCED WITH BOARDS ONLY THE FLOOR IS MADE OF EARTH...
SEE, IT'S A PASSAGE-WAY
SOMEONE'S BEEN THROUGH HERE RE-CENTLY
SO IT MUST BE SAFE...
WITH THIS STYLE, THEY CAN'T BE TOO OLD EITHER!
WHICH MEANS...
FOOT-PRINTS!
SPIKED ONES?

BUT THAT'D BE COOL TOO
Like MY series
Defi-nitely!
IDIOT!!
I'M STILL NOT GOING! NOT THROUGH SUCH A CREEPY TUNNEL!
THERE COULD BE GHOSTS OR CORPSES OR ANYTHING!
YOU'RE NOT SCARED ARE YOU?
I AM NOT!!
I... I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU, THAT'S ALL!
WILL YOUR LEG BE OKAY!? WHAT IF YOU COLLAPSE HALFWAY THROUGH?
DON'T STRESS SO MUCH I'M TOTALLY FINE
ANYWAY, EVEN IF THAT DID HAPPEN, YOU COULD ALWAYS RESCUE ME RIGHT KURA-CHI? Or something.
It's so long Can you see the end?
WASN'T THAT AZUMA'S JOB?
New that you mention it
YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT
BUT AS I RECALL...

Ah
WAIT UP! I'M COMING TOO...
What the hell am I doing ?
IF YOU'RE SCARED, THEN DON'T COME, BABY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN BE SO SPINELESS
Tooh
I'M GOING!
thud
thud

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TASUKU!
Oh crap!

DAMN
NOW IT'S TOO BIG TO FIT THROUGH THE HOLE.
AS IF BRINGING THE STUPID THING HERE WASN'T HARD ENOUGH

HUH?
AH...
turn
DEAR ME THIS IS A PROBLEM

LOOK!
SEE WE CAN'T GET THROUGH.
WE'LL HAVE TO TURN BACK
SSH!
OW!
bump
WHY DID YOU STOP SO— SUD-DEN-LY?
KURACHI, LOOK AT THAT!!
HUH!?
DON'T TELL ME...
SOMEONE'S GONE 'INSIDE'?
THERE'S SOMETHING ALIVE UP THERE!
A TUNNEL PANIC Finde
the first part

STORM IN HEAVEN

Demian Syndrome

volume 02 chapter 08

Scanned by Yuriko

Translated by Arashi

Edited by Shiina

Quality Check by Kalendel

http //www.storminheaven.net
#storminheaven@arcarchighway.net

Pre-Second Stage ③
A TUNNEL PANIC
the latter part

Hahaha he's huge!

I GUESS I SHOULD'VE SAID SOMEONE...

DON'T JOKE AROUND LIKE THAT!!

BUT LOOK, HE'S WEARING CLOTHES.

THERE'S SOMETHING ALIVE UP THERE!

WELL...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

A Human

Already Dead

Still Alive

Blood Everywhere

Going to Attack

Thirl

WAIT, THAT MEANS...

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF EXPLORING THIS UNKNOWN TUNNEL UNDER THE AUDITORI

I'LL TOTALLY PASS!

TAKAYAMA,

C'MON, LET'S GO BACK!

Wha-! Is!!
W— WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GEEZ YOU SCARED ME...
Wahh!
YOU IDIOT!
IT'S DANGER-OUS UP THERE!
Jump
AH!?
HUH?
TA-TAKAYAMA!
Acche
Eeek
WHAT?
TAKA-YAMA—!
grab
LOOK
OH MAN, IT MOVED!
KURACHI, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
Oh god, oh god!

YOU KNOW ...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO STICK WITH ME

JUST 'CAUSE I WANT TO GO DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO YOU CAN GO

C'mon. c'mon!

C'MON, DON'T YOU WANT TO LEAVE?

Change your mind.

I'm begging you!

...

I'LL TAKE IT ON!!

CORPSE OR ZOMBIE OR WHATEVER,

dash

!

IMMIE THE LIGHT, I'M GOING!

AH!?

DON'T WORRY, KISAHARA WILL GET US OUT OF THIS ...

REALLY, GUTS WERE ALWAYS THE ONE THING YOU DIDN'T HAVE.

shuffle

!!
Fump
HOLD IT.
AHHH
NICE ONE.
TAKA-YAMA!
QUIT YELL-ING!
COME AROUND TO THIS SIDE.
SLIDE
YOU JUMP INTO THINGS WITHOUT THINKING
CALM DOWN YOU MORON.
THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?!
MORON!?
thud
ALRIGHT, ONCE MORE.
HM?
OH!
LET'S TRY IT WITH THIS FIRST.
Hello
SAFE

IT'S MADE OUT OF MUD

!!

JUST SOME PRANK THEY LEFT HERE

ha ha

If you came from the other side

SOMEONE'S GONE "INSIDE"...
Looks like...
HOW MANY?
T—TWO.
ARGH!
THIS IS FOR REAL!!
A SNAKE!?
Eeeeh
Keep the light off it!

BINGO.
GOT'CHA.
Know it
YOU SEEN HIM?
HEY, I THOUGHT I SAW THIS GUY SHOUTING AND HEADING TOWARD THIS ASSEMBLY HALL.
clack clack
creak
ER, TASUKU
ER, BUT I...
HM?
THAT'S THE SENIOR'S LADDER.
I NEED IT FOR THIS HUGE THING
YOU'RE CUTTING INTO MY SATURDAY NIGHT
Yeah yeah
HURRY IT UP
FORGET IT. THIS S TOO BIG ANYWAY
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF THE STORAGE ROOM LATER
After homeroom and cleaning's over

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THEY'RE STILL DOWN THERE ..!
HEY, WAIT...!
YOU'RE KASA-HARA, RIGHT?
EH?
I'M GOING TO GET THIS CRUTCH BACK TO ITS OWNER
YOU SHOULD KEEP THIS QUIET
CLICK
THANKS SO MUCH I'LL LEAVE YOU TO TAKE CARE OF IT
REALLY, YOUNG MEN THESE DAYS ARE SO STRONG!
YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE A HUGE MESS DO YOU?
IF YOU WANT IT KEEP IT A SECRET, FOLLOW ME

Man

SORRY ABOUT THAT, AZUMA, WITH YOU A FRESHMAN AND ALL

They probably think you're skipping.

YOU REALLY SAVED THE DAY

WHEN THAT LADY MAKES PLANS SHE NEVER TELLS ANYONE... SO EVERYTHING WINDS UP GETTING ALL MESSED UP.

IT'S FINE

I disappear a lot

Information

DON'T WORRY, EVEN THOUGH I'M JUST A FRESHMAN, I CAN GET PEOPLE TO HELP ME OUT

My saving grace

YOU KNOW, THEY SHOULDN'T RESTRICT THINGS BASED ON AGE. YOU SHOULD JUDGE A PERSON'S CHARACTER.

THIS LIBRARY ...

Seriously

MUST BE EASY FOR YOU,

WITH THAT BRAIN OF YOURS.

OR DID YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH THE ARCHIVES AGAIN?

THE COMPUTERS ARE STILL OPEN.

Information

6th year (seniors) only
Private Area

DID YOU OVEREXERT YOURSELF AGAIN?
EH?
NO, I'M FINE.
YOUR COLOR DOESN'T LOOK GOOD
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? MAYBE I CAN HELP.
OH, AZUMA, WAIT.
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I'M JUST TAKING A GLANCE
I'M KINDA BUSY, SO
I'm 16
I'm not continue tore. Pretty tall for a 15 year old, right?
AT JOHOKU YOU'RE ALWAYS TREATED LIKE A MAID ER, I MEAN, YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND LIKE SERVANTS
YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT, RIGHT? IF THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND COME TO BIG SIS HERE AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT
ER, NO YOU MUST BE IMAGINING IT.
MAYBE HAVE A DATE WHILE WE'RE AT IT?
Er kay.
Kay?

SLAM
Ow!
ERG
YOU KNOW, THEY COULD'VE MADE THIS TUNNEL A LITTLE BIGGER.
Keeping crouched all the time is a pain.
Hahh
JUST WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT SNAKE!?
WAS IT HIBERNATING OR SOME-THING?
HEY
DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT THING!
A—ANYWAY, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THE TUNNEL'S BEEN HERE?
YOU'RE AFRAID OF SNAKES?
SHUT UP!
A SHEL-TER...
THAT MAKES SENSE.
YEAH, YOU COULD COME DOWN HERE AND TAKE REFUGE AND STUFF.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT.
Hehe, wow.
I THINK ...
THIS PLACE USED TO BE A BOMB SHELTER.

Let's take a break.

SUR-VEYING?

OH YEAH, YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

I just remem-bered.

NAH, TRUTH IS I TOOK THIS SURVEYING COURSE LAST YEAR, AND WE WENT OVER THIS CAMPUS

MY TEACHER LET SLIP ABOUT THIS PLACE, IS ALL.

Man, how nostalgic.

IT WAS MY FIRST DAY BACK, WHEN YOU WALKED ME AROUND CAMPUS

AND I SAVED YOU FROM GET-TING TOSSED INTO A POND.

Hey

THAT'S TOTALLY NOT HOW IT WENT DOWN.

WHAT DID YOU DO THOSE THREE YEARS YOU WERE IN AMERICA?

HM? BUT KURAGI, YOU HADN'T CHANGED A BIT IN THOSE THREE YEARS I WAS GONE.

I KNEW THAT THE SECOND I SAW YOU.

Shut up!

C'MON, ALL YOU DID WAS GROW YOUR HAIR OUT SOME AND GET WORSE VISION, RIGHT!?

No change at all...

I DECIDED TO COME BACK...
OH!
LIM...
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
I—I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
I...
Well...
YOU MUST'VE HAD... A LOT ON YOUR MIND WHEN YOUR FRIEND DIED.
I'VE GOT NO TACT AT ALL...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT. ...THAT HAPPENED.
BUT THERE WAS FUN STUFF TOO.
MAN, WHY'M I BEING LIKE THIS.
slump
HEY, KURA-CHI.
WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE ACTING OFF.
Ha!
YA THINK?
IT'S MY STUPID INFERIORITY COMPLEX.
IT GETS REALLY BAD AROUND YOU GUYS.
EH?

At all
YOU DON'T THINK I VE GROWN...
Geez. I actually said all that.
How lame.
I'M SHORT, I'M STUPID, AND I'M JUST AN ANNOYING BRAT
NOW YOU GO AND TELL ME THAT I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL? GIVE ME A BREAK...
THEN I GET THINGS WORKING FOR ME, AND YOU COME BACK.
YEAH?
WHEN I WENT RUSHING AT THAT THING...
AND YOU KNOW EARLIER,
I WAS GOING TO JUMP AT IT AND THEN RUN THE HELL OUT OF THERE.
BUT YOU EVEN WITH YOUR LEG LIKE THAT...
HEHE♡ NOW THAT'S THE KURACHI I KNOW.
How suave.
Tch!
SHUT UP! I KNOW I'M A MORON.
Shit!
ANYWAY, IT TURNED OUT TO BE A PRANK, AND WE BOTH WOUND UP RUNNING FROM THE SNAKE.
Perio.

THANKS FOR BEING FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME

NAH, I THINK IT'S GREAT

*That you're like that

"SOMEONE LIKE ME"...?

EH?

WHEN I GOT BACK AFTER SO LONG I FIGURED THERE WOULDN'T BE A PLACE LEFT FOR ME, BUT YOU WERE THE SAME AS EVER.

Well

TO BE HONEST, IT WAS A RELIEF WHEN I WAS ADMITTED HERE...

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MY OLD PLACE, IT'S NOT LIKE THINGS WERE THE SAME

BACK THEN, AZUMA WAS MY ONLY FRIEND

WHAT DO YOU MEAN.

YEAH, YOU'VE GOTTA FORGET THIS WHEN WE GET OUT.

This's too embarrassing!

QUIT IT!

Weirdo!

You haven't changed either!

YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!

I'm embarrassed too.

I WAS RELIEVED YOU WERE HERE

blush

!

AND IF THERE'S NO ONE AROUND, THEN I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.

I DECIDED TO SAY WHAT I WANT TO SAY.

WELL, NICE CHATTING.

LET'S GET GOING.

THANKS.

mumble

I THINK ...

THAT THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO LIVE.

TAKA-YAMA...

SO YOU WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS ...

RIGHT?

THIS REALLY IS USELESS...
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS AFTER ALL.
AH WELL KNEW IT'D HAPPEN SOMETIME
SOMEONE'S ACTUALLY COMING?
Whoa!
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD AN ARCHIVE ROOM DOWN HERE TOO!
LOOKS LIKE IT JUST HAS THE OLDEST STUFF HERE.
It's the crappiest AC.
THIS AREA'S OFF LIMITS, YOU KNOW.
HEY, SETTLE IT DOWN.
Hm, what's with that sound?

WHY'RE YOU HERE, SAKURAI?
With Kasahara...
HM, YOU'RE HERE?
What a surprise
AZUMA!?
THAT'S
AZUMA!
A TEACHER JUST CAME IN, SO YOU'D BETTER GET OUT...
Oh, Sakurai!
WHAT TEACHER? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
STILL AT THE EN-TRANCE.
AHHH, WHY'RE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE?
KASA-HARA,
THAT PLACE WE TALKED ABOUT, IT'S THERE. IT'S UP TO YOU.
OKAY!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE TEACHER.

THIS IS PART OF THE PACK-AGE.

TAKE CARE OF THE TWO MOLES, WILL YOU?

!

You're room-ing with him.

AZUMA!

flip

I'LL HOLD THEM FOR TEN MINUTES! YOU'VE GOT TO GET IT DONE BY THEN!

GOOD LUCK

grab

AZUMA! I'LL EXPLAIN, SO JUST COME ON!

WAIT

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?

flick

IT WENT OUT!

OH!

OVER THERE

WHERE ARE WE?

SOUNDS LIKE A MOTOR.

Thank God there was another exit

THAT WASN'T SO BAD

WE'RE OUT!

Tch!
WHY ARE THEY ALL LIKE THIS!?
THIS AN EXIT?
ISN'T THERE A REAL DOOR!?
IT'S BETTER THAN THE OTHER ONE
Why do you have that?
Crash
I'm taller and all
SORRY, KURAGI, I'D BE IN YOUR PLACE, BUT
IF THIS IS BLOCKED
I'LL BREAK IT DOWN!
CRRRRRRK-SLAM
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
CREAK-SLAM
FORGET THAT...
CREAK-THUD
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OUT!!
I hate snakes!
Switch
YOU TRYING TO CALL ME WEAK!? MY LEGS ARE DAMN STRONG!
LET'S DO THIS!
Fetch Bullet

slam
slam
C'MON!
WAIT!
flare
Step back!
!?
AH!
IT'S TOO BRIGHT ...!
grab

Huh——!?

JUST C'MON!

THERE'S NO TIME!

A, AZUMA!?

Gah! You're all nasty!

CRRRRR

DRAG

THUD

SO THE OPENING WAS BLOCKED?

PUT THE SHELF BACK TO HIDE THE HOLE!

THUD

WHERE ARE WE?

JUST TOSS THOSE BOOKS ON HERE!!

CRCK

SHUT UP!

IT'LL TAKE ME THREE SECONDS TO PULL YOU OUT! NOW COME ON!

Three seconds?

S—

SURE.

AZUMA!

CRAP! TIME'S ALMOST UP!

NEXT! KURACHI!

HURRY UP!

LOSS

I CAN GET OUT MYSELF...

Oh my what a tangent!
I'D LOVE TO TALK THAT OVER!
tap tap
tap tap
clack
cla_ck
C'MON!
THIS WAY!
huff
GIVE ME A BREAK
THEY'D HAVE CALLED A MEETING AND SUSPENDED US WE'D HAVE BEEN TOTALLY SCREWED
IF THEY FOUND OUT THAT WE'D BROKEN INTO SOMEPLACE THAT DANGEROUS,
Thank god!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ALL ABOUT!?
Though I did get out of there...

THAT WAS SHIBA'S.

SO THOSE WERE YOUR CLEAT MARKS, TASUKU? AND JACKET?

EH!? THE DORM LEADER TOO!?

THE SUN FEELS GREAT.

click

We just decorated it

THAT WAS THERE FROM THE START.

And the snake!

BUT MAKING THAT THING WAS JUST EVIL!

Ah!

I BET HIS LEG GOT WORSE DOWN THERE

THAT'S RIGHT!

EH?

I'm fine.

You okay?

SOUNDS COOL, I WISH I'D GONE TOO

SO TAKAYAMA? HOW ABOUT YOU?

Hurry it up!

LET'S GET TO THE HOSPITAL!

Get you an X-ray and CAT scan!!

C'MON, LET'S JUST GO BACK TO THE DORMS.

I'm fine, so...

YOU FELL AGAIN!?

What

YOU TRIED TO GRAB ME! THEN YOU FELL IN AND PASSED OUT!

I didn't fall...

UH, UHM...

Talk about over-doing it! You're already injured! >z

Nice Tasuku is taking him...

Man

I WONDER IF HE'LL BE OKAY.

IF HE KEEPS GETTING HURT LIKE THAT, YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK TOO

All those chores for just the two of you

GEEZ,

NOW YOU GUYS ARE BACK TOGETHER.

Eh?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

WE'RE A TEAM

WHAT I SAID BACK THEN UNDER THAT AUTUMN SKY SEEMS TRIVIAL NOW...

JUST DWELLING ON THAT

HEY, AZUMA, WAIT!

LET'S HEAD BACK TOGETHER!

WHY NOW...?

I KEEP GETTING MIXED UP IN YOUR STUFF

ISN'T IT THE SAME NOW...

AS IT WAS BACK THEN?

☆Don't touch me, you stink!

HEY. DON'T BE SHY!♡

STARTING NOW, I'M OVER IT...

...YOU HIT YOUR HEAD, DIDN'T YOU?

drag

grab

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

SERIOUSLY, NO BIGGIE

In a Taxi

I'M SORRY

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE TO PUT UP WITH ME...

Even if I say I'm fine, that doesn't

GEEZ, YOU REALLY ARE SO

Ex-your left hand

My "part of me"?

TASUKU?

YOUR PARTNER'S PROBABLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU TOO, YOU KNOW...

AZUMA...

BUT WHY WERE YOU DOWN THERE...!?

HUH?

blush

HM? WHAT'S THAT PAPER?

The library's going to close

AZUMA, YOU DONE YET?

OH, YEAH SORRY...

SHUT

NOTH-ING...

NOTHING AT ALL...

crack

crack

THERE

THIS IT?

A TUNNEL PANIC the latter part

Ende

STORM IN HEAVEN

Demian Syndrome

volume 02 chapter 09

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http://www.storminheaven.net
#storminheaven@arcarchighway.net

IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE I ENTERED JOHOKU ACADEMY

AND MY FRUSTRATION'S JUMPED TO NEW HEIGHTS

REALLY

WHY DID YOU GUYS MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP HERE?

Well, you know...

YOU GUYS ARE REALLY A LOST CAUSE

BUT JOHOKU ACADEMY IS SO STRICT

AND THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY SCHOOL FESTIVALS! WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT?

It feels a little like a remote village

I FINALLY GET WHY JOVW SEEMS SO OFF...

Yeah. It feels a little geeky

YEAH

Hey, c'mon now!

WE'RE STILL YOUR GREATEST FANS!

YOU GUYS ARE BEING REALLY RUDE!

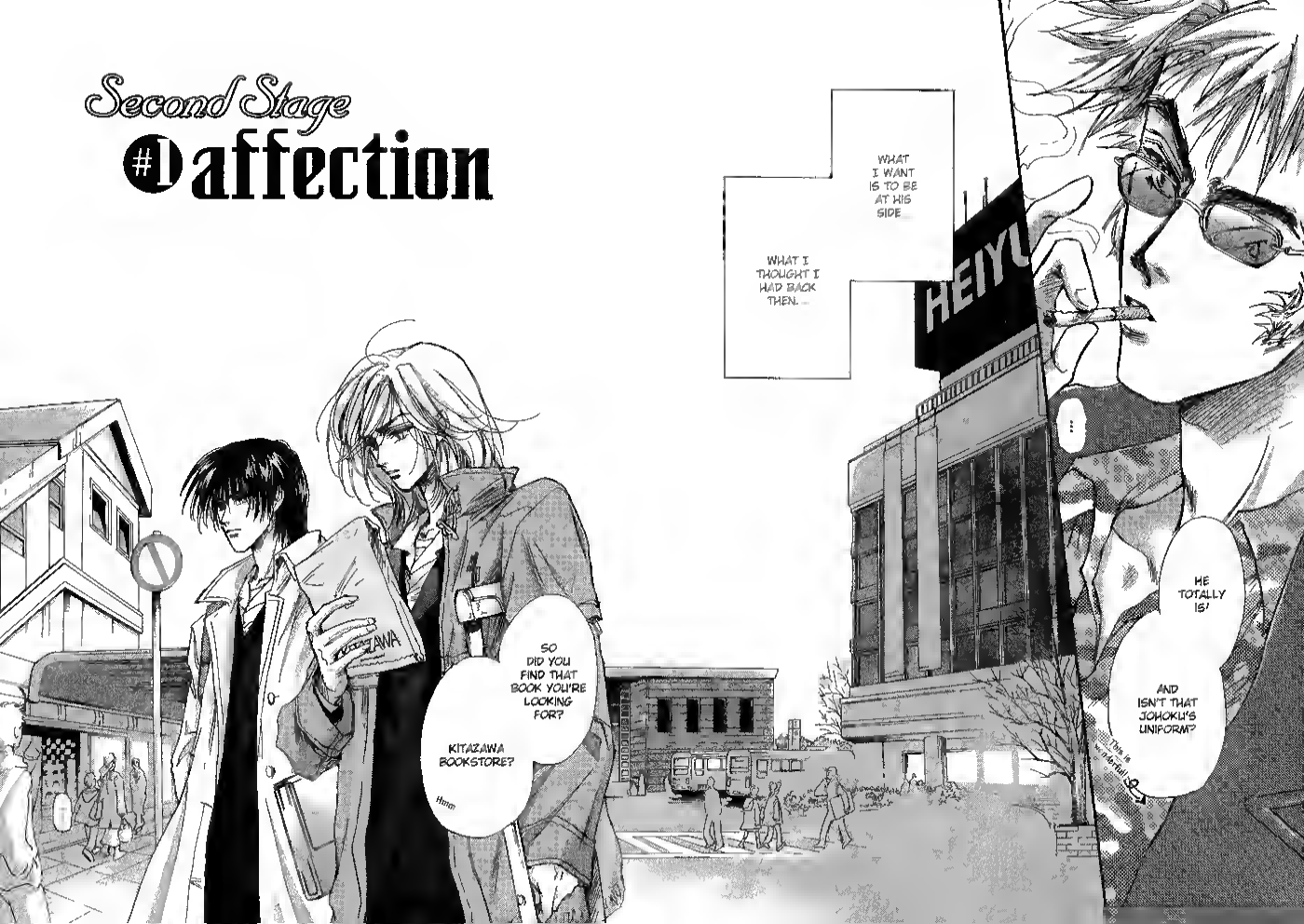
You're gonna get me mad, Y'know?

OH!

We totally love you Kabal Ryder!

LOOK, THAT GUY'S REALLY CUTE!

HUH? WHERE?


Second Stage
#1 affection
WHAT I WANT IS TO BE AT HIS SIDE...
WHAT I THOUGHT I HAD BACK THEN...
HEIYU
...
HE TOTALLY IS!
AND ISN'T THAT JOHOKU'S UNIFORM?
This is no time!
SO DID YOU FIND THAT BOOK YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
KITAZAWA BOOKSTORE?
Hmm

WALKING OUT THIS FAR IS GREAT FOR SOME SERIOUS REHABILITATION...

Huh?

...THE BOOKSHOP IS FOUR TRAIN STATIONS AWAY?

IT'S GOT A GREAT SELECTION...

CLACK

CLACK

CAN DORM STUDENTS REALLY AFFORD TO GO ALL THE WAY OUT HERE WHEN SCHOOL S STARTED?

Of course not!

It's dangerous to just use one crutch

YOU AND YOUR "MODEL STUDENT" ACT!

YOU EVEN WENT AND TRICKED THE PROFESSORS!

AND WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU?

BUT WHY DO I NEED A BABYSITTER, ANYWAY!?

MY PLANS ARE RUINED BECAUSE I HAVE TO FOLLOW YOU AROUND...

WHAT!? IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO, YOU COULD'VE SAID NO!

THE MORE I IGNORE YOU THE WORSE YOU GO ON...

The teacher asked me to follow your

DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID, OR YOU'RE GOING TO FALL AGAIN

HEY! YOU TWO OVER THERE! HANG ON!

SHUT UP!

HOLD IT!

NO ONE ASKED YOU TO FOLLOW ME ANYWAY

WAIT UP!

Oh, shock!!

YOU DON'T KNOW ME!? FOR REAL!?

...WHO ARE YOU?

Are you really a student from Johoku?

MAN, YOU GUYS SURE WALK FAST!

WITH HIS LEG INJURED LIKE THAT TOO, GEEZ

I'm serious

Hah... Finally caught ya!

HI!

STALK

STALK

YOUR BUDDY OVER THERE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT JOHOKU'S SUPERSTAR ALUMNUS!

AZUMA...

AREN'T THERE ANY RUMOURS ABOUT ME IN SCHOOL?

ALUM-NUS?

I KNOW, DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE GOING TO SAY I'VE GONE BACK ON OUR AGREEMENT, AREN'T YOU?
Transfer student? That'd do it
IT'S NOT REALLY A SURPRISE.
HE'S A TRANSFER STUDENT, AND YOU'VE ALREADY GRADUATED.
BUT WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT...
SWISH
I THOUGHT I MADE A MISTAKE WHEN I SAW YOU WALKING... WITH SOMEONE ELSE ALL FRIENDLY-LIKE.
BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!
THE GENTLE TYPE?
AND HE LOOKS LIKE THE GENTLE TYPE
THE KIND OF PERSON YOU STAY FAR AWAY FROM.
The kind that the teachers like

STARE

I've got chicks with me (though they're just girls)

Right?

YOU LOOK MORE LIKE MY TYPE

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

YOU WANNA GET A DRINK OR SOMETHING?

No! Thanks

PUSH

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME I HATE RUDE PEOPLE

SAY YOUR OWN NAME BEFORE YOU ASK SOMEONE ELSE'S!

Right I see, all me fault?

SPEAKING OUT OF TURN LIKE THAT. NOW YA REALLY SEEM MORE LIKE ME

THAT'S THE WAY TO GO YOU LITTLE PUNK!

HAHAHA

You "hate" me? How cute!

I'M KOBAYASHI KATSUYA.

I JUST GRADUATED THIS YEAR.

AND...

I AA DAH!

EH!?
YOU GUYS?! DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO WAIT FOR ME?
Let's go to another diner!
Whee!
Oh Kaya-
NOW WHEN DID YOU GUYS START CHATTING?
HURRY AND INTRODUCE THESE YOUNG GUYS TO US!
Whee!
Wa Yay-

EH?
UP CLOSE, HE'S PRETTY CUTE TOO
Hates little girls
STARE
Aww don't glare at me like that
Wean-
YOUR LEG'S HURT? THAT SUCKS

I KNOW ALREADY! QUIT TUGGING!
Yeah
Hey!
See ya!
HUH?
YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
HURRY UP!
IT'S PAST CURFEW
Eh?
I KNEW HE'D BE A FLIRT

HEY, HOLD UP
HEY!

Didn't you say you hated people with no man-ners?
Totally! It's such a waste of
They are.
EHE!
TAKAYAMA
I THINK SO TOO.
BUT YOUR BANGS ARE TOO LONG
Totally
!
HA!

TAKAYAMA. WAS IT?

HMM.....

He looks really shy. How cute!

chink

Man... he really left crap

HEY!

HE ISN'T EVEN GOING TO SAY HI?

IT'S ALL RIGHT

Don't you know each other?

EH!

You're calling the Cop!

HEY AZUMA!

AZUMA!

DIDN'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF?

WHO WAS THAT?

HE NEVER FINISHED!

I DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT MUSIC. GO ASK SOMEONE ELSE FOR DETAILS...

I'M SURE THEY KNOW MORE THAN I DO

I've got to get to the office

HE'S AN ALUMNUS THAT PLAYS IN A BAND.

HIS BAND'S CALLED JUNGLE OR SOME-THING...
I know him he's pretty famous
KOBAYASHI KATSUYA, WHO WAS IN A BAND?
OH, YOU MEAN HIM.
IDIOT. THAT'S NOT IT.
KOBAYASHI AND THE REST FORMED THE GROUP WHEN THEY WERE IN THEIR FOURTH YEAR, AND NOW IT'S A PRETTY FAMOUS UNDERGROUND BAND
J<V>W FOR SHORT.
"JUNK VERDURE WOLVES."
J<V>W
The members are all from our university!
Maybe from SA.
Who are you?
SHUT UP
I DON'T CARE!
KURACHI, AT LEAST REMEMBER THE RIGHT NAME
GUESS JEANS
WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED THAT JOHOKU HAD IT'S OWN BAND
—SO THEY WANTED TO BE THE FEISTY GARBAGE WOLVES—
VERDURE?
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE SUCH A WEIRD NAME!
A pro band shouldn't have a name like that, right?
GUESS JEANS

Leave it to me!
KURACHI WON'T KNOW ABOUT J<V>W. YOU SHOULD ASK ME!
NOT REALLY INTERESTED BUT...
UM...

EH?
WHAT?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN J<V>W... TAKAYAMA?
CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT KOBA-YASHI...?
GUESS JEANS
KSFACTORY II

BASTARD
DON'T TALK CRAP WHEN YOU'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD THEM SING!
EH? REALLY?
YOU SEE THEY'RE HORRIBLE...
I'D ADVISE AGAINST IT...
GUESS JEANS

WHY ARE YOU JUST SLACKING OFF OVER HERE!?
I can't do it alone!
IT'S OUR TURN TO DO THE DISHES TODAY!
The dinner dishes!
TAH...
YUK!!

EVERYONE COULD HEAR THEIR CRAPPY PRACTISE IN THE MORNING!
SHUT UP!
What did you say?
course I know!
DON'T YOU DARE LOOK DOWN ON J<V>W!
KURA...
ERM...
Apologise to Kobayashi right now!
Hey...
THERE YOU ARE!
KURACHI!!

OH...

I STILL HAD STUFF

GUYS SHOULDN'T GIVE LAME EXCUSES!

Bye, Takayama!

HURRY UP AND HELP!

NOD

Look! I'm wearing my apron!

I'M NOT SLACKING OFF!

TAKAYAMA CALLED ME OVER.

OH!

Man, him dragging Kurachi off like that

THAT WAS YUKI, A THIRD YEAR.

IS HE REALLY THAT FORCEFUL A GUY?

THOUGH I GUESS IT'D BE POINTLESS TO ASK HIM

TO ASK YOU

GUESS

RIGHT TAKAYAMA, SO THEN

It's not like they're being very helpful over here

I GUESS I'VE GOTTA ASK AZUMA DIRECTLY

WHEN HE'S CALMED DOWN A LITTLE, THOUGH

GUESS JEANS

SO THE SEMI-FAMOUS KORAYASHI IS AZUMA'S FRIEND...?

"BREAKING OUR AGREEMENT"? WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?

IT TOTALLY DOESN'T FIT HIS IMAGE

Disobeying the teachers outright and all
But it was so fun and cool too!
YEAH
BUT OUR SCHOOL'S SO STRICT SO KOBAYASHI AND THE OTHERS WELL YOU KNOW...
THEY HAD LOTS OF STUFF GOING ON UNTIL SPRING
Hey
EH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "EH"? DIDN'T YOU ASK ABOUT JOW?
IT'S OKAY
REALLY?
SO KOBAYASHI WAS IT?
OH... I WANT TO HEAR TOO!
Let me in!
TAKAYAMA'S GOTTEN USED TO LIFE IN THE DORMS
That's good.
IT COULDN'T HURT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM...
THOUGH HE'S A LITTLE IMPATIENT, HE'S GOT A CHARM OF HIS OWN...
RIGHT AZUMA?

BACK THEN, NO ONE...

BUT YOU'RE STILL AS FOND OF READING THE NEWSPAPER AS EVER

YOU CAN BRING IT INTO YOUR ROOM TO READ, YOU KNOW?

since there's no one else reading it anyway.

YOU MUST HAVE LIKED DOING READING REPORTS FROM WAY BACK, HUH?

YEAH.

NAH, IT'S FINE. I'M DONE WITH IT.

BESIDES, IF I BRING IT BACK, MY ROOMMATE... WILL NAG AT ME.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, AZUMA!!

COME OVER HERE!

GRAB

NAH, YOU'VE GOT A POINT.

I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM.

...WAS LONELIER THAN HIM.

WHAT, NOW TAKAYAMA'S ANNOYING?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE BUSY AS A DORM LEADER, RIGHT?

BECAUSE THIS IS A SCHOOL.

SO WHY DO YOU LIKE MEDDLING WITH EVERYONE SO MUCH?

emergency exit

...

SHIRA...

BALKING THE WAY

C'mon!

I LIKE TO ROOT FOR HARDWORKING PEOPLE.

SO WHAT IS IT...?

?

THUD

THERE'S NOTHING REALLY...

YOU GUYS DIDN'T HAVE ANOTHER FIGHT, DID YOU?

I DON'T BUY YOU AND YOUR "NOTHING'S UP" ROUTINE

Will you stop picking on me? You're copying yourself...

WE DIDN'T ARGUE.

IT'S NOT THAT.

Why are all you older guys like this...?

SO WHAT?
WHAT SECRET DO YOU HAVE?
Would it kill you to tell him?
HOW DID IT TURN INTO ME HAVING A SECRET?!
IT'S JUST THAT
HE'S A VERY ASTUTE PERSON
AND HE'S INTERESTED IN JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING
AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD REMARKABLY LIKE AN OLD MAN...
could be a rarity for his time.
WHAT'S THE HARM IN LETTING HIM KNOW?
HE'S TRYING HIS HARDEST TO FILL IN THE GAPS FROM THE LAST FOUR YEARS.
WELL, CAN'T BE HELPED
SHIBA
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON ASSIGNING ME TO THE SAME ROOM AS HIM?
SHIBA.
YOU'RE JUST CURIOUS YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU?
ABOUT TAKAYAMA

TRALA
Shiho?
I REALLY DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING SOMETIMES.
JOLT
"Che"?
EHE! ♡
Until you
LEARN HOW TO GET ALONG WITH OTHER ♪ PEOPLE.
TAKASHI
I CAME TO SEE YOU!!
CLICK
CLICK

FRIENDS...?
LIAR...!
BEFORE YOU'RE SATISFIED?
HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT TO KNOW
I REALLY WANT TO TALK TO YOU
THIS IS REALLY JUST A GAME.
LET'S START BY BEING FRIENDS...
THAT'S JUST A PLAY ON WORDS...
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT.
IF WE DON'T SPEAK UP, WE'RE NEVER GOING TO UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER

I DON'T MIND IT, I JUST HOPE WE DON'T HAVE TO WALK AROUND TOO MUCH

MAN, THAT STINKS. THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF STUPID STUFF IN DECEMBER.

Can I we just get to Christmas?

DECEMBER STARTS THIS WEEKEND

clack

clack

clack

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU SPENT HALF YOUR TIME IN THE SECOND SEMESTER CLINGING ONTO A CRUTCH

IT'S EITHER DIRT PATHS OR UNEVEN CORBLED ROADS IT'S SO HARD TO WALK.

And cement paths

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO BAD IF YOU'D BROKEN YOUR ARM INSTEAD

HA HA HA

Nov 29 (Thurs)

OH...

"Eep"?

Gah!

HEY, WATCH IT!

BE MORE CAREFUL WHEN YOU'RE WALKING!

I can try to break your arm now, if ya want, huh!

STOP WHINING ABOUT IT! A NORMAL GUY WOULD'VE DIED!

Ahh! Quit it! Stop kicking me, you idiot!

EEP!

YOU OVER THERE YOUR HAIR IS TOO MESSY

HMM?

WHAT'S WRONG MISS HARADA?

Hmm

NO, IT'S NOTHING

IT'S THE TEACHER FROM THE GIRLS' DIVISION

Crap!

I'M SORRY

Those J something guys

MUTTER

IT WASN'T EASY TO GET THOSE OLD TROUBLE-MAKERS OUT OF THE SCHOOL

MUTTER

THE DISCIPLINE IN THE BOYS' DIVISION HAS GOTTEN TOO LAX AGAIN HASN'T IT?

MUTTER

ALLOWING THEM TO DO AS THEY PLEASE WAS

MUTTER

TRUE...

Honestly

TIE IT UP IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CUT IT SHORT!

REALLY, MR. NUKATA, YOU SHOULD BE MORE...

you mean me?

HUH?

The discipline for the guys has always been more lax than for the girls

DUNNO, THE SCHOOL RULES AREN'T THAT DETAILED. SHE'S JUST REALLY NAGGY

MAN POOR MR. NUKATA

THE PRINCIPAL DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT...

CAN'T I LEAVE MY HAIR LIKE THIS?

And some other guys have their hair long, so I thought it was okay.

WHAT'S UP WITH "RESPECTING THE FEELINGS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL" ANYWAY?

BUT THAT TEACHER'S BEEN ON STAFF FOREVER

Cool?

It's really cool

WHATEVER, JUST KEEP IT LONG.

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE LOOKING RATHER PALE...
EH? MR NUKATA?
Is there another problem?
I JUST HOPE IT WON'T CAUSE TROUBLE ..
YOU'RE TOO NAIVE.
BUT HE JUST TRANSFERRED NOT LONG AGO.
OH?
OH, THAT PROBLEMATIC STUDENT...
OH, NO WONDER
AND SHE'D JUST RUN INTO TAKAYAMA AND A BUNCH OF FOURTH YEARS.
HUFF
I ACCIDENTALLY RAN INTO MISS HARADA ON THE WAY.
STAP
He's gone overboard!
By the way, where are the snacks?
Oh! There
BUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT? JUST WHAT WAS HE UP TO?!
BUT THAT WAS TO SAVE THAT KID.
Oh, thanks
AND HE FELL OFF THE DORM'S ROOF!
HE TRANSFERRED IN AS A REPUTABLE STUDENT, BUT HE WAS ACTUALLY LATE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AND CAME IN WITHOUT HIS UNIFORM
Tea, Mr Nukata?
HE'S GOTTEN INTO SO MUCH TROUBLE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME! HE'S A PROBLEM STUDENT ALL RIGHT!
OH, YOUR CLASS TOO?
Mine too. He's an interesting kid, stubborn
He's quite a diligent student
BUT HIS GRADES ARE GOOD.

Oh, the week too.
HE'S STAYING AT A RELATIVE'S PLACE? IT'S WORRYING TO HAVE HIM CONSTANTLY STAY OUT.
BUT HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND IS QUITE COMPLEX.
True
WELL AS FOR HIM...
ALTHOUGH HE'S QUIET, HE'S A VERY SERIOUS STUDENT! ALL AROUND OUTSTANDING
BUT I HEARD THAT AZUMA'S TAKING GOOD CARE OF HIM...
ISN'T HE GOING FOR AN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME?
I just remembered
Oh yes please Thank you
Would you like a cup of tea?

He should be very liberal.
BEING WITH AZUMA IS AT LEAST BETTER THAN BEING WITH SOME OF THE PROBLEMATIC STUDENTS
Hahh...
IT WASN'T EASY TO GET RID OF THOSE TROUBLE-MAKERS
AFTER ALL HE IS FROM AMERICA!
Really
SO IT'S FROM HIS UPBRINGING?
AT ANY RATE JUST KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR TAKAYAMA...
LET'S HOPE THAT THE SECOND SEMESTER WILL END PEACEFULLY
Sigh

You won't have to pay if you wash it yourself

DID THE GIRLS' DIVISION DO THE WASHING?

Wow... so nice...

From the dolphins department

THE PUBLIC LAUNDRY-MAT SENT MY CLOTHES BACK!

IT'S REALLY CHEAP A HUNDRED YEN PER PIECE

A FRESH SHIRT!

REALLY?

WELL, THAT'S JUST MY ANALYSIS. IT'S INTERESTING

YOU'D ONLY GET TEN THOUSAND YEN FOR WASHING A HUNDRED PIECES BUT THAT'S THE CLOTHING DEPARTMENT'S OPERATING CAPITAL

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T VALUE THE SCHOOL'S MOTTO OF DILIGENCE BUT...

REALLY?

Hmp

TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUGGESTION THE LAST TIME...

BUT THE JANITOR, MR. TANAKA TOLD ME...

He said it was very useful

WHO HAVE YOU BEEN TALKING TO?

HOW'D THAT TURN INTO ME DABBLING IN THE STOCK MARKET?

I don't get it

Hm?

ARE YOU PLAYING THE MARKET?

Is it in a bad state?

Uh

I MENTIONED THAT WE WERE STARTING OVER AGAIN...

BECAUSE MR. TANAKA...

REMEMBERS THAT WE WERE TOGETHER A LOT WHEN WE WERE YOUNG...

HE MIGHT EVEN KNOW MY DAD

...I THOUGHT THAT HE'D KEEP MY SECRET

LOOKS LIKE I TRUSTED THE WRONG GUY

OH, AND HE WANTED ME TO PASS THIS ON TO YOU

HE SAID THAT IT WAS SOMETHING KOBAYASHI WANTED YOU TO HAVE.

I KNOW
THAT'S WHY I MADE USE OF HIM.
ALTHOUGH HE LOOKS HARD TO GET TO KNOW, HE'S ACTUALLY A VERY NICE PERSON
...LEMME SAY THIS RIGHT OFF THE BAT...
HE ONLY TOLD ME BECAUSE IT WAS ME
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE NICE TO IGNORE HIM...
Made use that sounds really awful
I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO GUESS, SO I KEPT MY SILENCE
BUT IT STILL DIDN'T WORK
THAT'S NOT VERY NICE OF YOU!
Course not!
...TRUE SORRY...
THE SEAL HASN'T BEEN BROKEN
!
BUT YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ME AND KOBAYASHI, DON'T YOU?

That's right! Even though I can't really kneel on my left leg.

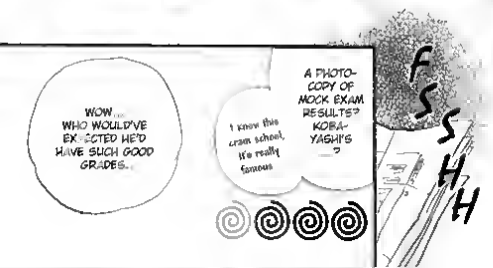
Going all out in a psychological battle

YES!

I REALLY WANT TO KNOW!

PLEASE TELL ME!

FUMP



EH?
BUT WHY WOULD HE GIVE THIS TO YOU?
RUSTLE
I'VE BEEN USING HIS NAME SINCE LAST YEAR.
BASI-CALLY—
BECAUSE I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK THE EXAM
IT WAS IN OUR BEST INTERESTS
USING HIS NAME ISN'T HE THREE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU?
YOU WERE JUST IN YOUR THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL! WHY WOULD YOU...
That's abnormal
THAT NOT A REASON! WHY!?
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHERE I STOOD
THERE WAS NO WHY

HE DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT HIS GRADES,
SO I WASN'T UNDER PRESSURE OR ANYTHING.
HOW IT HAPPENED...? WHAT...
BUT THE SCHOOL KEPT NAGGING ME SO MUCH ABOUT IT THAT IT WAS GETTING IRRITATING
I USED TO TAKE THE EXAM UNDER MY OWN NAME
KOBAYASHI WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP HIM OUT BACK THEN, AND I HAPPENED TO RUN INTO HIM IN THE BOOKSHOP.
THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED.
SO...
"...SO..."
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
THAT YOU HAD THE NATURAL ABILITY TO CHARM PEOPLE.
SHIBA SAID...
...!

DONT CALL ME THAT—
SERIOUSLY, STOP IT!
YOU'RE TOTALLY MAKING FUN OF ME!
YA THINK?
CONGRATS 'LIL JO
YOU'VE CHANGED SINCE YOU WENT TO AMERICA.
THAT'S GOOD, JO
AZUMA...
I SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT, ALL JOKES ASIDE.
I'M STAYING OUT TONIGHT.
OH — YOU'RE GOING TO SEE YOUR STEPFATHER TODAY...
THAT'S RIGHT.
Saturday

BYE!
clack
OH
JUST LEAVING LIKE THAT! YOU BASTARD!
WHAT D'YOU MEAN BY "THAT'S GOOD"!? QUIT JOKING AROUND!
WHO DO YOU THINK MADE ME LIKE THIS?!
AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN MENTION THE IMPORTANT STUFF ABOUT KOBAYASHI!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU WERE JUST SO DAMN GLOOMY THAT I HAD TA ACCOMMODATE YOU!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A BADASS OUTLAW, DO YOU HEAR ME?!
MIND YER OWN BUSINESS!
LONG AGO AND IN AMERICA...

ALL THAT ABOUT "FRIENDSHIP GAMES"...
OF COURSE HE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT... BECAUSE HE'S NEVER TREATED ME AS HIS FRIEND
totally stupid
NO...
I'M THE IDIOT
COME TO THINK OF IT HE'S BEEN NICE TO ME...
HE'S PROBABLY TRIED HIS BEST ALREADY
...BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH
I'VE CHANGED...
AND OF COURSE HE WOULD TOO...
I WANT MORE...
TABUKU ONCE ASKED ME...
DO YOU LIKE HIM THAT MUCH?
I'M MORE THAN JUST A REGULAR FRIEND TO HIM
BUT... ISN'T THAT REALLY DIFFICULT?
I ONLY WANT

I REALLY WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE...

SHOULD I GO TALK TO TASUKU...?

YEAH, JUST AROUND.

HI, GOING OUT?

DON'T FORGET ABOUT CURFEW.

YESSIR.

I DON'T WANT TO STAY IN THAT ROOM ALONE...

I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU

GETTING CLOSER AND BACKING OFF AGAIN...

JUST WHAT SHOULD I DO?

IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE WE'VE BEEN REUNITED...

IS IT REALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO RETURN TO THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAD IN THE PAST...?

BUT EVER SINCE THAT DAY, THIS PENT-UP FRUSTRATION HAS NEVER GONE AWAY...

IT'S REALLY CLOSE TO CAMPUS
HUH AM I LOST?
I KNEW IT.
I'LL PROBABLY JUST DISTURB HIM BY DROPPING BY WITHOUT NOTICE
True enough
WELL WHATEVER
I'LL JUST TAKE A WALK AND HEAD BACK
VRRMMM
VRRMMM
Ehhhh?
SO THAT IS YOU AZUMA'S FRIEND!
!
KOBAYASHI KATSUYA?!
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY'RE YOU STROLLING AROUND WITH THAT GLOOMY FACE, KIDDO?

Demian Syndrome

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
A SECRET ALLIANCE AZUMA'S ACCOMPLICE IN CRIME...
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
Who the heck is Azuma anyway? I'm such an idiot!
HI
Come on, don't be so cold, Kaido
YO!
YOU IGNORING ME, MR. PLAY-BOY?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU PENT UP OVER SOMETHING?
YOU'RE GONNA GET HURT STUMBLING AROUND ON THE STREET LIKE THAT, KIDDO
!
BUMP
BULLS-EYE, HUH? YOU'RE TOO EASY TO READ
Between the playboy and Kaido I'm getting pissed
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME, SO QUIT ACTING LIKE A WHIZ-KID!
SHUT UP! WHO THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?

SO DID YOU ASK SOMEONE AND FIND OUT ABOUT US? ABOUT J<V>W?
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN COLD
Quit following me!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THIS KIDDO HERE HAS A LOT TO THINK ABOUT,
SO GOOD-BYE!
HEY
HEY, HOLD IT DON'T GO JUST YET!
What a guy
"J<V>W IS TOTALLY AWESOME!"
and stuff
OR
"KOBAYASHI'S REALLY CUTE!"
Like
STAGGER
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, KIDDO!
Clashes with your image
IT'S WEIRD NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT
I'M MORE INTERESTED IN WHY YOU LET AZUMA TAKE THE MOCK EXAM IN YOUR NAME
DID HE TELL YOU THAT?

NO!

I FORCED HIM TO TELL ME

HE DIDN'T TELL ANYONE

CRAP I LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG!

DIDN'T MEAN TO

SO HE'S GOT A BIG MOUTH, HUH?

AND HE STILL HAD THE AUDACITY TO SAY I BROKE OUR CONTRACT WHAT A JERK!

OH...

grumble

grumble

Since you're free anyway

COME WITH ME FOR A BIT

HUH?

Inter-coming

AZUMA ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON!

I'M SORRY!

ERM

HE REALLY IS

I UNDERSTAND

JUST WHAT AM I DOING?

Koha's treat →

DO YOU LIVE AROUND HERE?

slightly respectful

CAN I ASK HIM ABOUT AZUMA?

Is he really in a rock band?

WELL, YEAH—

HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE THE TIME TO SIT HERE WITH ME—?

WEREN'T YOU GOING SOME-WHERE?

BUT IT'S STILL EARLY AND I'LL JUST GET INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH MY DAD IF I STAY AT HOME

BY THE WAY, I'M NEXT IN LINE FOR THAT FIRM

OH YEAH—

THAT'S MY PLACE!

THERE'S A KOBAYASHI ACCOUNTING OFFICE ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL. ISN'T THERE?

HOW'D WE START TALKING ABOUT THIS—?

IS IT OKAY TO? THIS GUY—

IT'S A TOUGH WORLD OUT THERE—

BUT ISN'T THE BAND YOUR JOB—?

EH?

MY DAD THINKS THAT WE SHOULD ALL TRY TO MAKE OUR OWN WAY FOR A YEAR.

WHY—

ARE YOU TELLING ME SOMETHING SO PER-SONAL?

THE MOCK EXAMS WERE ALSO SOMETHING THAT GAVE ME A LOT OF PROBLEMS... THAT SUMS IT UP.

End of explanation

Man what am I going to do?

It clashes with the final round of the contest!

Not listening to his dad at all? Yeah, whatever.

I DON'T WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE AT ALL, BUT MY DAD HOPES THAT I'LL TAKE OVER THE BUSINESS. ANYWAY IT'S JUST REALLY COMPLICATED

Uuuu

LAST YEAR...

I RAN INTO A NEWLY FORMED BAND AND WAS TORN BETWEEN THAT AND GOING FOR THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS...

I DON'T PLAN ON IT...
IT'S JUST THAT I...
DON'T HAVE A GOAL LIKE YOU DO.
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING THAT I WANT TO DO...
THAT'S WHY I THINK IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL.
THREE YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME, AND MORE MATURE THAN HIS CLASSMATES. GAVE HIM... SOLEMN FEELING
BUT EVEN SO...
Why's he suddenly so quiet?
KOBAYASHI?
SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW? THIS GUY SUDDENLY APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE...
HEY, PLAYBOY, DO YOU HAVE A DREAM?
HUH?
THAT SURE CATCHES MY INTEREST...

How did I get stuck in this?

A DREAM...?

ERM...

...YOU CAN'T JUST SUDDENLY ASK SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

WHAT? DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU LIKE TO DO?

Forget it...

I'M NOT GONNA TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY GOT THEIR OWN DREAM

C'mon!!

THAT'S WEAK YOUR LIFE REALLY BEGINS WHEN YOU GRAB YOUR DREAM, YA KNOW?

DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY!

SO SORRY...

BUT I THINK I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO FIND MY DREAM!

Because I'm 3 years younger than you

I WANT TO USE THE TIME NOW, BEFORE I DECIDE ANYTHING, TO TRY MORE STUFF.

...!

I THINK THAT,

BUT IT'S REALLY HARD...

I CAN'T JUST WHILE MY LIFE AWAY ANYMORE...

Huff...

You could say
OH, I'M TALKING ABOUT AZUMA HERE
WE USED TO BE PRETTY CLOSE
Damn it!
I CAN'T HELP FEELING THAT HE'S MATURED A LOT WHILE I WAS IN AMERICA
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO HIM!
Just thinking about it pisses me off!
WHY ARE YOU TRYING SO HARD?
IT'S LIKE... I FEEL THAT IF I DON'T WORK HARD, I'LL JUST ROT AWAY
AND THAT SCARES YA? WHY DON'T YOU JUST TRY ROTTING A LITTLE?
It'll change your view of life
WHO?
AND THEN WHAT, JUST DIE? QUIT KIDDING AROUND...
I'D RATHER JUMP INTO A FURNACE THAN LET HIM SEE ME LIKE THAT...
I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT THAT...
JUST WHO ARE YOU DOING ALL THIS FOR...?
...OH, I GET IT.

HE'S NOT YOUR AVERAGE PLAYBOY

GOT'CHA

YUP

SO HE DOESN'T TALK A LOT

I'm the one who does

HUH?

What?

HM?

I'M TALKING ABOUT AZUMA.

OKAY, OKAY...

I GET THAT A PLAYBOY LIKE YOU LIKES THAT GLOOMY GUY

Sounds nice. I'd better get that down

QUIT CALLING ME A PLAY-BOY!

AND THAT'S TOTALLY WRONG!

What d you just pull from your pocket?! Hey

hehehe

WHAT, YOU'RE STILL WORRYING ABOUT THAT? DIDN'T I SAY I GOT IT ALREADY?

You idiot...

IDIOT!?

YOU NEVER SAID YOU GOT IT!

Though you did say "I understand"

HA

HA

HA

*THE RADIO STATION

GRAB
Ah!?
REALLY?
What else?
BUT I STILL THINK THIS ONE'S PRETTY NICE
ACTUALLY, I ONLY LISTEN TO WESTERN MUSIC
Let me think
Oh gotta pay
PAT
PAT
PAT
IT'S MY SONG
HUH?
GRINN
The one that's playing?
THIS IS REALLY YOUR SONG?
OUR SECOND SINGLE "WAITING CRY" IS A LOVE SONG BY JVJW THAT GOT ONTO THE TOP HUNDRED HITS CHART ON ORICON!
Strictly speaking, it belongs to the entire band
Our winter love song was a huge hit!
REALLY?
No way!
BUT IT'S REALLY GOOD!
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT
You bastard...

HEHE
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS THE REACTION I WANT! ESPECIALLY FROM YOUNGER KIDS.
OH
SO YOU'RE REALLY THAT GREAT?
Although it feels like he's mocking me...
So you're a real celebrity? I never thought you could write a song like that!
Don't name yourself you'll be that professional...
SMILE
THEN COME ON
HUH?
LET'S HEAD OUT NOW.
HEIYU
THE "WAITING CRY" LIVE.
YOU WANT TO HEAR IT?
THAT'D BE COOL
Crap, I couldn't hide it!
HUH?
Janathan's
COFFEE & RESTAURANT
WHEN ARE YOU GOING BACK?
I'VE BOOKED A TICKET ON THE TRAIN TONIGHT
uhihik

I'M SORRY
TO MAKE YOU TRAVEL ALL THE WAY HERE WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY.
I'D PLANNED ON STOPPING BY THE HOTEL NEAR YOU
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE REALLY BUSY NOWADAYS TOO
HOW'S MOM?
WELL
SHE'S SETTLED DOWN
AND SHE'S GETTING ALONG WITH EVERYONE AT HOME, TOO
THAT'S WONDER-FUL
THANK YOU.

HAVE YOU DECIDED IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO GO BACK?
I'M NOT SURE BUT THERE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. IT'S NOT MY DECISION...
BUT...
TAKASHI
DO YOU WANT TO COME HOME SOMETIME?
I REALLY REGRET IT...
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE
BACK THEN
I DIDN'T LISTEN TO YOUR ADVICE...

...
YOU'VE GROWN UP.
BOYS REALLY MATURE QUICKLY.
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE YOU USED TO BE AS A KID

YOU...
SEEING YOU MAKES ME HESITATE MORE... BUT YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO YOUR FAMILY TOO.
...IN ALL HONESTY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEST

DAD...
YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON.

DO YOU STILL THINK I SHOULD GO BACK?

THIS IS FOR YOU
I'LL BE FINE
TAKE CARE OF THEM
You can open it later
IT'S FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS I HOPE YOU'LL USE IT
I'VE GOT TO BE GOING
YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT
EVEN THOUGH IT'S LIKE TEN DAYS LATE.
OH...
THANKS

TAKAYAMA?
WHAT'S HE DOING...?
KOBAYASHI?!

Demian Syndrome

■ I'll be doing a free talk here. Hi everyone, Oku here. I've finally published the second volume, but it's been so long, and I'm really sorry about that. It wasn't easy to reach the 2nd stage, and about half of this volume is the early days, which I apologize for. The tunnel under the building in the second chapter of Pre was something that we had at our school too (but a different kind). I only stuck my head in it, but I heard a upper-classman say, "We really do have one. I've been inside." It helped me confirm this story (laugh). Thank you. Old buildings are really interesting~ As for the story in the boy's dormitory, it was based on Jo and Azuma's feelings. Even then, these two are very different from normal high school students (or maybe all my characters are all very detached from reality). They're just little cheeky kids, and if possible, I'd like to ask everyone to continue their journeys with them. In the next section, we're going to look at the reasons why Takashi is so wishy-washy, and I'll let their relationship progress (even if it's not going to be a bed of roses). Please continue to support me (for real?) Bye!

2002 May
Mamiya Oku

●Takashi Azuma
1985.8.21
Scorpio,
Blood type A
<179.5cm>

●Junichi Takayama
1985.12.17
Sagittarius,
Blood type A
<174.5cm>

THAT IDIOT! HE DIDN'T GET PERMISSION TO STAY OUT!

FORGET IT AS LONG AS HE RETURNS BEFORE CURFEW

...!

TAKAYAMA AND... KOBAYASHI?!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

WHY...

Are the plans today still on? Please contact me

— AKIO —

DoCoMo

WHAT AM I WORRYING ABOUT?

HE ISN'T A CHILD ANYMORE.

!

WHY SHOULD I BOTHER...?

WHO DO YOU KEEP TALKING ON THE PHONE WITH?
NEITHER MY PARENTS NOR MY FRIENDS KNOW
OF MY SECOND HOME...
SEND
SAVE

COFFEE & B
UCC
COLD!
TERCHATTERCHA
I'M SERIOUSLY FREEZING!
OF COURSE YOU IDIOT... EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUNNY OUT, IT'S ALMOST DECEMBER.
There we are
AREN'T YOU TWO A BIT UNDER-DRESSED TO RIDE IN ON A BIKE?
I'm the only one dressed for the weather

The crutch is in the car with the equipment

HIS LEG'S INJURED, AND HE NEEDS A CRUTCH

Oh

CHATTER

It-

IT'S NOT LIKE...

CLONK

THAT!

CHATTER

...BUT YOU'RE STILL THE FIRST GUY WHO'S HAD TO BE DRAGGED IN

IS IT REALLY THAT COLD?

I'm warmed up

EVEN IF IT'S LATE WHY DON'T YOU WEAR THIS

I'LL BE AT THE LIVE HOUSE. YOU CAN COME OVER WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BETTER

!

IT'S A DRY RUN, AND WE'RE SINGING THE OPENING SONG, SO WE'VE GOT TO START REHEARSING AT THREE. SEE YOU LATER.

MY MY...

You're really a bad role model.

HOW COULD YOU USE A MOTORBIKE TO CARRY AROUND SOMEONE WITH AN INJURED LEG?

HECHOO!

IT'S OKAY, IT'S ALMOST HEALED

YOU WANT SOME KOBA-YASHI?

You might as well ♡

What do you mean might as well?

No Thanx!!

Ah...

CHOO!

...

Let's see...

I'VE GOT SOME COLD MEDS.

WANT SOME?

CHATTER

OH

THANK YOU!

CHATTER

YOU'RE SO CUTE!
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT LITTLE PLAY-BOY?
I...
I CAN'T,
YOU CAN JOIN THE CELEBRATION AFTER OUR PERFOR-MANCE!
Yeah!
I'VE GOT CURFEW...
HAHAHA
AREN'T I
For lots of things
EVEN THOUGH I CAME WITH-OUT THINK-ING
GETTING IN YOUR WAY?
Should I leave?
C'mon!
Rules were made to be broken!
ARE THE RULES MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY INVI-TATION!?
NO WAY!
I just
DON'T WANT TO MAKE A MESS FOR THE PORM MANAGER!
KUN!?
Urgh...
CURFEW
YOU'RE HERE ALREADY, AREN'T YOU? FORGET CURFEW, YOU GOODY-TWO-SHOES!
YOU?
YOU WERE PLANNING THIS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, WEREN'T YOU?!
IT'S SATURDAY, SO JUST BREAK THE RULES THIS ONCE!
Just this time!
OK, THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU

Psh~
DJ it will also be there man, what a gig!
THERE'LL BE THREE OTHER BANDS AND A SPECIAL CONCERT.
don't come running to me then!
It takes nearly an hour to get back.
It's hard down
Here!
HERE. YOUR REWARD: A TIME-TABLE FOR THE TRAIN
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING. NOT GIVING INTO KOBA LIKE THAT
TCH!
THANKS!
I don't care about the other bands!
I ONLY CAME TO LISTEN TO YOUR SONG!
THUNK
<-Kobayashi
Kobayashi! 760 yen for the coffee!
IS HE REALLY THAT IMPULSIVE?
Hmm
It can't be helped, let's go
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
He's lost
smile
It's almost three.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S A DRY RUN?
OH!
LIVE HOUSE
369
B1F
OPEN 18:30 START 19:00
Locked
THANK YOU
SOLD OUT
Locked

TO THINK JXVXW COULD ACTUALLY MAKE IT SO FAR.
AND WHILE THEY WERE STILL IN SCHOOL TOO THIS IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE
IT'S SO STRICT FOR THE REGULARS SO I EXPECT IT'LL BE EVEN WORSE FOR THOSE JUST STARTING OUT
YOU GET FREQUENT CHECKS IF YOU SING AT THE LIVE HOUSE AND EXTRAS IF YOU RE ON ALL NIGHT...
BUT A GROUP LIKE THAT WILL LEAD ITSELF TO RUIN EVENTUALLY
BECAUSE THEY'RE REALLY LUCKY
HUH?
Not too shabby at all!
THEY ACTUALLY CAME UP WITH SOMETHING LIKE "WAITING CRY"
MPHH
MPHH
IF THEY START TO GET COMPLACENT
I WON'T LET THEM PERFORM ON OUR STAGE BUT...
I hate it when fans come here!

DAMMIT!
HUH?
ERM. I'M.
I CAN SEE WHY!
THE OWNER ?!
EH? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE WHICH BAND ARE YOU IN?
I THOUGHT HE WAS THE DOOR-MAN
How cute!
TAKAYAMA! ARE YOU LIS-TENING?!
I'M WORKING MY ASS OFF AND YOU'RE JUST PICK-ING UP GIRLS, YOU BASTARD!
We're about to start!
Kobayashi— don't move the screen before we actually start!
Do you remember the order we men tioned?
ERM THIS IS JUST A REHEARS-AL
STOMP
J.V.W has four people
MY— HOW RARE
What's with them?
THE OWNER CAME FOR A REHEARSAL?
HERE I'M HIDING IN THE CORNER
The bands rehearsing today
WHO'S THAT?
NO IDEA.

REALLY...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE REALLY LISTENED TO IT
So it goes like that.
BUT DOES KOBAYASHI HAVE SOMEONE SPECIAL TO HIM? WHY WOULD HE WRITE A SONG LIKE THAT ?
THIS IS LIKE
I'M WAITING FOR YOU AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREY FOG.
I'VE HEARD YOUR CRIES.
JUST STAY THERE AND LET ME BELIEVE IN YOUR EXISTENCE
YOU'RE FIGHTING THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE!

EVEN THOUGH THAT'S HOW I FELT NOT LONG AGO...

I SAID I LIKED THIS SONG SO THE CATS OUT OF THE BAG THEN ?

IT'S TOO LATE FOR REGRETS THOUGH

WHY ARE THOSE FEELINGS SO DISTANT FROM ME NOW? (THAT SHOCKS ME EVEN MORE)

CAN YOU HEAR ME SHOUTING?

GOING FAST THIS GREY FOG, MEETING AGAIN IN THAT FUTURE AHEAD...

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE FAR APART, I KNOW YOU'RE STILL WAITING FOR ME AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREY FOG.

I TRULY BELIEVE IN THAT.

OH!

WHOOPS, I MEAN, IT WAS REALLY COOL, REALLY GREAT!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WROTE THAT...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ISN'T IT

OH CRAP... THE CRUTCH IS IN THE VAN.

IT'S ALREADY FOUR.

I'LL GRAB IT MYSELF.

WHY'S THERE A SONG LIKE THIS?

EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE SAME

WHAT I FELT WHEN I WAS IN AMERICA

BUT

LIVE HO
369
TOUR
EH...
IS IT REALLY HERE?
OH... CRAP... I FORGOT TO RETURN HIS JACKET
It's really cold and I forgot
WHAT SHOULD I DO? DO I HAVE TO GO BACK?
SOLD OUT
LUCKILY, THERE'S STILL TIME
Though I don't need a crutch on level ground...
Damn!
IT'S STILL HARD TO CLIMB STAIRS
WITHOUT A CRUTCH

Aw Man!
SO THEY'RE HAVING A SECRET CONCERT WITHOUT EVEN TELLING THE FANS!
THAT SUCKS!
Those horrid 369 guys...! and Live House too!
55
SO THEY STOPPED PLAYING WITH "369"?
BUT THERE'S A JCVOW CAR OUTSIDE
Mizi saw it

369
Oh!
SOMEONE JUST CAME OUT...

BINGO!!
YES!
This is wonderful!
LOOK AT OUR LUCK! IT'S HIM!
HEY, HEY! WAIT!
!?
OH!
LIVE

LIVEHOUSE 369

B1F

Hey, hey!

DO YOU HAVE TICKETS?

DO YA?

FOR JOW'S LIVE CONCERT!

Why are you wearing it? I wish I was!

OH

ISN'T THAT KOBAYASHI'S JACKET?

THANK YOU CALLING!

DAMN!

I WOULD HAVE RETURNED THE JACKET TO HIM FIRST IF I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN

SO IT'S ALL GUYS

OH... THE ROCK CONCERT TODAY IS GOING TO BE REALLY ROUGH.

WELL...

PLEASE!

We just want tickets!

COME ON, PLEASE HELP US OUT!

A WOMAN WALKED IN EARLIER!

LIAR!

WHAT?!

LIKE I'D BELIEVE THAT!

THAT WAS PROBABLY AN ASSISTANT...

Gal

Oh! I want to touch it too!
Oh! Me too!
THEY REALLY LIKE KOBAYASHI
AT LEAST... LET ME TOUCH THIS FOR A WHILE
!
AH
THEY JUST WANT TO GET CLOSER TO HIM
55
——BUT
IT'S SO IRRITATING
DON'T YOU CARE A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
JO?
THAT'S WHAT I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IN THE PAST.
SAME WITH AZUMA.
BUT NOW I
THAT'S WHY WE GOT ALONG SO WELL!

IF WE DON'T SAY ANYTHING, WE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
FINDING OUT EVERY-THING ABOUT ME IS YOUR IDEA OF A FRIENDSHIP GAME?
AM I WRONG ?
OUT OF THE WAY!
YOU OVER THERE!
PEN18 30 ST
THANK Y
!
The entrance is narrow!
DON'T BLOCK THE WAY!
OH... BRING THE EQUIPMENT IN FIRST!
Thank you Kobayashi
EH, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO KOBAYASHI AND
LET'S GO OVER THERE!
hop
On the bus
LET'S JUST MOVE NOW...
55
CRAP! IT'S THE OTHER BAND!
SORRY!

NO
JUMP
MY GIBSON!
GAH!
OH!
THUD
TCH!
AHH!
OW
WA
TH
CH
!!
...!
Touch!
WHO FELL DOWN THIS TIME?
Ahhh!
(crash bang)
EXIT
HUH?
!!

I'M FINE I'M REALLY GOOD AT FALLING

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU OKAY?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU OKAY?

EH?

KNOCK

Hey!

KO-BAYASHI, IT'S YOUR FRIEND!

PROTECTED

EH?

EH? WHY'S THERE A GUITAR...?

!

HAD BETTER TOE THE LINE!

YOU GIRLS

I'M REALLY SORRY!

Don't get too cem placent boy

WATCH OUT JOYW!

Lily

CRAP

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR GIRLS TODAY. THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T LET YOU COME
GET IT? BE GOOD AND COME AROUND THE NEXT TIME.
You really wanna see Fiver?
OKAY!
Wow! Kabuyashi is really in awe!!
Sorry!
GEEZ...
HUH?
I RAN INTO THOSE GIRLS
I have to drink them up again...
WHY DIDN'T YOU FETCH YOUR CRUTCH?
Just going...
MAN...
Wobble
!?
Watch out!
Wobble!
HUH
Uh...
Alright...
I'll GO WITH YOU
DON'T YOU NEED TO GO BACK ON STAGE?
ha ha

TAKA-YAMA!

HEY...

YOU ALWAYS COME BACK HERE

AND CALL ME TOO

I'M REALLY VERY HAPPY THANK YOU

I'M STILL GOOD ENOUGH, SINCE I HELP TRIM THE PLANTS AT SCHOOL SOMETIMES

ALTHOUGH I'M NOTHING COMPARED TO A GARDENER

"THAT'S WHY I AM HERE."

Not really

NO IT'S OKAY

LET'S TALK SOME MORE

I'M SORRY

MY POOR HUSBAND USED TO SAY THAT

HOW DID IT GO WITH YOUR STEPFA- YOU'RE THER? STAYING THE NIGHT, RIGHT?

THAT'S GOOD.

SHE'S BEEN DEPRESSED LATELY...

HOW IS SHE?

SHE'S FINE, SHE'S FALLEN ASLEEP.

AND THEN YOU BROKE THE RECORD ON THE HEAVY EXERCISE BIKES.

Oh!

THOSE ARE COMPLETELY UNRELATED!

How cute! you say ^^;;

Have you seen the ZIP out info?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BE MORE FEMININE, AND DRESSING UP LIKE THIS

You're even stronger than a guy

LOOK AT YOU TALK

YOU KNOW KARATE AND AIKIDO

THIS HOUSE IS TOO BIG,

AND I'M NOT COMFORTABLE BEING THE ONLY ONE AT HOME

hehe

FORGET THAT!

HEY

BEAR WITH IT.

YOU'VE GOTTEN MEANER.

How boring.

TCH...

...IT'S STILL SNIGHT ...

AKIO.

HOW ABOUT WE GIVE IT A TRY ...

BEFORE DINNER?

Laura
Laura...
The white in all yours... there.
Hehe
What do you mean reach for xxx?
HMM.
OH...
YOU'RE AW, IKE.
16
CHAPTER
UM, WHAT ...?
YOU GOT DIZZY AND FAINTED.
Call them?
THIS IS THE COFFEE SHOP ACROSS THE STREET.
YUP.
WHERE I GOT THE COLD MEDICINE

YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP THEM, WEREN'T YOU?

YOU DID ME A FAVOUR.

THANKS FOR EARLIER

EH?

I NEED AT LEAST AN HOUR TO GET BACK TO JOHOKU FROM HERE...

What do you like?

THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT, WHY DON'T YOU REST SOME MORE?

YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?

I'm doomed...

DUNN

IT'S ALMOST FIVE...

AH

SEIRAN'S CURFEW IS AT FIVE-THIRTY

NO... I SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING

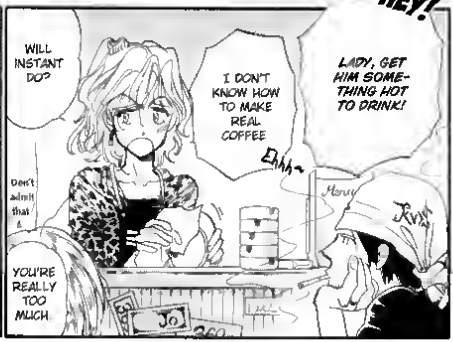
I'VE CAUSED YOU...

JUMP

YIKES! THE CURFEW!

DON'T GET ALL EXCITED YOU CAN'T MAKE IT ANYMORE

BASTARD
Don't mock me!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
IT'S CAUSE


HEY!
WILL INSTANT DO?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE REAL COFFEE
LADY, GET HIM SOME-THING HOT TO DRINK!
Don't admit that!
YOU'RE REALLY TOO MUCH
Hmm
Rin

EHEHEE
THAT'S HOW IT IS GIVE IT UP, KOBAYASHI
I'll get you an instant
I'm just helping him watch the cafe
That's true
With you guys stuck here no wonder!
IT'S THE BOSS' FAULT FOR RUNNING OFF MID-SHIFT!

GULP
HEY!
THAT'S MY...
Thanks
I'LL JUST HAVE THIS
What kind of a cafe is this?
Geez
FINE, FINE, JUST HURRY AND BRING IT OVER!
16
Pretty cute
Favorite
Don!

HUH?
THAT IS WHY HE LOOKS DOWN ON ME
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THINGS TO TURN OUT LIKE THAT
You're younger than me after all.
HA HA...
THAT WAS A DOUBLE...
ARE YOU OKAY?
That was beer
CLINK

HE DOESN'T NEED ME AT ALL...
HE'S ALWAYS ALONE, BUT HE CAN DO EVERYTHING SO WELL...

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
I WAS DECEIVING YOU
I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW

THE REASON WHY I CAME HERE WITH YOU...
WAS TO TRY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THAT MOCK EXAM THING...
I WAS THE ONLY ONE THINKING I WAS ON PAR WITH HIM...

WHAT'S WITH YOU, ORANGE?
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL HELPLESS JUST 'CAUSE SOME THINGS AREN'T GOING YOUR WAY!
THUNK
Who cares about carbine anyway?
I JUST NEEDED SOMEONE TO TAKE IT FOR ME
BUT WHY DO YOU THINK AZUMA VOLUNTEERED?
HE SAID HE JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW GOOD HE WAS
THAT EXAM.
WOULD A NORMAL KID GO THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE JUST TO FIND WHERE THEY STAND?
YOU CAN JUST TAKE THE EXAM UNDER YOUR OWN NAME, DON'T YA THINK?
OF COURSE! BUT HE SAID—
THAT HE USED HIS REAL NAME BEFORE. BUT THE SCHOOL KEPT FISHING FOR INFORMATION. SO HE GOT REALLY IRRITATED.
BUT WAS THE SCHOOL WHAT REALLY ANNOYED HIM?
HUH?

COFFEE & BAR
LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT TO GET UNNECESSARILY INVOLVED IN ANYTHING...
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S GOOD OR BAD...
BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HATE HIS FAMILY
IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS PUSHING HIMSELF FROM HIS FAMILY
BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE WANTED TO DO THAT
AND WAS VERY THOROUGH ABOUT IT
I DID EVERYTHING TO LET MY FAMILY OR RATHER MY DAD SEE THE RESULTS HE WANTED YET HE DID THE OPPOSITE...
THEN WHERE DOES HE...?
Dunno
HE'S NEVER TOLD ME
NOT SOMETHING I NEED TO KNOW YOU, YOU SEE
NEVER?
BUT HE HASN'T BEEN STAYING AT THE DORM THE WHOLE TIME...
YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
HE HASN'T GONE HOME AT ALL IN THE PAST TWO YEARS
!

BUT NO MATTER WHAT...
AZUMA'S STILL GOT A LOT OF PEOPLE BEHIND HIM
HE'S PROBABLY NOT AS ALONE AS YOU THINK HE IS
WHEN I WAS STILL IN SCHOOL, A LOT OF PEOPLE SEEMED TO KNOW HIM.
AND EVEN STUDENTS OLDER THAN ME SEEMED ON GOOD TERMS WITH HIM.
He's really quite extraordinary
THE TEACHERS PROBABLY LIKED HIM A LOT, TOO.
THAT'S TRUE...
HE SEEMS PRETTY FRIENDLY WITH SHIBA...
AND TASUKU...
...BUT WHY...
HM?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?

BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU LIKED MY SONG...

MAYBE?

AND THAT SONG

Hm? You are kinda wussy, but

I'M SURE LOTS OF GIRLS COME KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR, RIGHT?

HUH? NOT REALLY...

PWA PWA

eh?

DON'T YOU TALK ABOUT GIRLS AT ALL? HAVE YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND?

C'MON... YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT YOUR FRIEND

HEY, YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO HEAD HOME?

HOT DOGS KAMBFEERS

BESIDES, I HAD TEN GIRLS OR SO THAT I LEFT BEHIND IN AMERICA...

IT'S FINE, I GET IT.

TRY MAKING A GIRL-FRIENDS.

Or! Could he recently have met someone he

FWA——M

THUD

Ah

Oh

?!

Eh?

he he he

SO YOU'RE A LATE BLOOMER?

Girls are really great, no matter how you look at them.

SO YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT AZUMA?

BRM
ABOUT TODAY THANK YOU VERY MUCH
THANKS SORRY FOR INTRUDING
I'LL WALK HIM PART-WAY
BOW
YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH THE WHOLE SHOW NEXT TIME
The rest is yours Mats
No prob-lem!
The stuff about white and stuff
JUST NOW WERE YOU EDIT-ING THE LYRICS FOR "WAITING CRY"?
Oh
HUH?
SORRY, YOU'VE STILL GOT TO GO ON STAGE LATER
IT'S OKAY
Don't worry about it
Okay, this is far enough
GOOD LUCK!
I PREFERRED THE OLD LYRICS BUT THE NEW ONES SOUND GOOD TOO
I BET THE AUDI-ENCE WILL LIKE IT

THAT'S RIGHT!
Ambiguous Meaning
DAMN IT. THAT AZUMA
HE'S... SO CUTE!
What's wrong with me? I'm straight!
Pi
Text Message
THAT SHOULD DO IT
IT'S ALREADY FIVE-THIRTY
BUT AZUMA'S OUT OF THE DORM TO-NIGHT
WE'D NOR-MALLY CALL OUR ROOM-MATES
I SHOULD CALL THE DORM TO LET THEM KNOW
I guess I should just do this
I'M REALLY SELFISH
HIM BEING HIM, HE'D BE SURE TO PESTER ME.
THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE A REAL PAIN.
SIGH
SHOULD I CALL KURACHI?
BUT

SNIP
AKIO CAN'T HANDLE ALL THIS
I SHOULD COME HERE MORE REGULARLY
WELL, I GUESS I'LL STOP HERE...
AND FINISH THE REST TOMORROW.
EH? A MESSAGE?
FROM KOBAYASHI?
!
SORRY, THE LINE'S BREAKING UP
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL!? WHAT DID YOU MEAN WITH THAT MAIL
HELLO? HOW RUDE OF YOU TO CALL ME.
NO SUBJECT
The orange rabbit came crying to me. Serves you right.
▲katuya Kobayashi▲
END
NEXT
PREVIOUS
Menu

YOU CAN COME ON OVER IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT

BEEP

HEY...

SORRY, DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING OVER THE PHONE.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR FRIEND FOR YOU.

KOTA-YASHI...

IT'S JUST A LITTLE PRANK.

Or maybe harassment?

WHY WOULD MR. I'LL-DO-WHAT-I-WANT COME?

Who?

Shut up. It's none of your business!

You've got a lot of friends.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SOMEONE ...SE IS COMING?

TAKA-YAMA CALLED ME JUST A LITTLE EARLIER.

TAKA-YAMA? AND?

WHY DO YOU ASK?

SHIBA...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THIS TIME?

What happened?

HM? OH...

RRR

HELLO, THIS IS SEIRAN DORM MANAGER'S OFFICE...

WHAT? YOU THIS TIME?

I heard the traffic in the background.

HE PROBABLY CALLED FROM A PAYPHONE.

I TRIED TO ASK WHERE HE WAS BUT HE DIDN'T ANSWER, AND JUST SAID THAT HE'D LET ME KNOW WHEN HE GOT BACK THEN HE HUNG UP

That's dark!

HE SEEMED OUT OF IT AND QUIETLY APOLOGIZED THAT HE COULDN'T MAKE CURFEW...

OFFICE

HE WAS A LITTLE OFF

OFF?

IF YOU KNOW, TELL ME WHERE HE IS NOW

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING THAT I DON'T?

BACK AT THE DORM?

HE REALLY SAID THAT?

AZUMA?

HE SAID HE'LL BE BACK AFTER SIX...

HE DID CHECK IN, AND IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO COVER FOR HIM.

GUYS WHO'RE OUT LATE WITHOUT PERMISSION WILL GET REPRIMANDED

I NORMALLY DON'T CARE IF YOU STICK TO CURFEW, BUT TONIGHT IS DIFFERENT.

THE TEACHERS ARE COMING FOR A SPOT CHECK

Geez...

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON. ?

BESIDES, IT'S ALREADY SO LATE. HE PROBABLY

THIS IS TOTALLY POINTLESS

HE...

HASN'T RETURNED ...?

IS WRONG WITH ME?

IS IT BECAUSE I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS? BUT I DIDN'T HIT MY HEAD

IT'S ALMOST LIKE WHEN I WAS DRUNK

BUT I DIDN'T DRINK

JUST WHAT

MY HEAD IS SPINNING...

I CAN'T WALK TO THE STATION

I'M STILL CONSCIOUS...

BUT MY BODY WON'T RESPOND TO ME

HEY... WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU OKAY?

LARK

OH

I'LL JUST HAVE THIS...

IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT? BUT THAT WAS JUST ONE GLASS. HOW CAN I POSSIBLY BE DRUNK?

High tolerance

I'D FORGOT THAT'S RIGHT

THE LIVER CAN'T PROCESS IT...

DAMN!

I'm really drug it

OR MAYBE...

THAT COLD MEDICINE SHOULDN'T BE TAKEN WITH ALCOHOL?

YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH ME...

IT'S CONTAGIOUS.

EH?

OKAY?

YOU'RE DRUNK SO EARLY IN THE NIGHT?

THAT'S NO GOOD. LET'S FIND A PLACE TO REST.

—UP.

THAT'S ALRIGHT?

SMILE

BUT I DON'T CARE IF I INFECT YOU.

I HAVEN'T FELT THIS BAD SINCE MY LAST ASTHMA ATTACK.

I THOUGHT I WAS CURED SO I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN

TO HIDE AND REST

NOW WHERE

—BUT I REALLY WILL DIE IF I DON'T FIND A PLACE TO REST

AND I DON'T WANT TO BE HARASSED

WOBBLE

CLANG

Now I'm doomed.

Tch!

HAMPH!

IDIOT

MUCH SIMPLER THAN AMERICANS

Don't underestimate me (asterisk)

BACK THEN I ALWAYS RELIED ON HIM TO HELP ME

HE WAS ALWAYS KEEPING ME COMPANY

BEING WITH HIM WAS REALLY NICE.

AS LONG AS I MEET HIM AGAIN WE'LL BE ABLE TO BE LIKE BEFORE. THAT'S WHAT I NAIVELY BELIEVED...

EVEN AFTER I WENT TO AMERICA, I COULDN'T FORGET HIM...

AZUMA HAS A WORLD OF HIS OWN

IT'S SO OBVIOUS, AND YET I NEVER REALISED IT BEFORE.

I'M... REALLY SICK WITH AFFECTION...
THUD
JOJO'S REALLY RIDING IT
Feeling happy?
he, he, he, he
Yeah!
WHAT'S THAT BRUISE ON HIS FACE?
SLAM!!
Punk Verde

THIS IS THE LAST PLACE...
IF HE ISN'T HERE, I'M OUT OF IDEAS.
THOUGH I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO COME HERE IF I COULD AVOID IT...
NO...
BUT AT TIMES LIKE THESE...
IT'S OKAY! I'LL BE FINE AFTER I GET SOME REST. LET'S GO OVER THERE...
RUSTLE
HE ALWAYS ...
DMP
!

30

HOW CAN YOU SLEEP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
HEY... WAKE UP!
FOUND YOU! HOW MANY TIMES...
ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME WORRY...?
BR...
I
...TAKAYAMA...
...WAKE UP! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
HA...

...ODO?

WHERE AM I? WHY'M I...

?

stare

?

YOU CARELESS DUMBASS!

!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO JUST SPACE OFF.

You almost scared me to death!

WE'LL TALK LATER

LURE

LURE

I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE

AZUMA?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? HOW DID YOU KNOW...?

Yikes!

You scared me!

FUMP

THIS ISN'T A DREAM IS IT?
IF IT'S NOT THEN THERE'S STILL
I CALLED THE DORM, DON'T WORRY
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?
HE SAW THROUGH EVERYTHING ?
I'VE INCONVENIENCED HIM AGAIN...
YUP.
LET'S GO BACK CAN YOU WALK?
WHY

Ah!
WHY ARE YOU...?
I DON'T NEED YOU!! DON'T TOUCH ME!
TAKA-YAMA?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS APPEAR AT TIMES LIKE THESE...
THAT'S WHY I...
.....
THAT'S WHY I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK THAT THE PERSON CLOSEST TO YOU...
...WAS ME.
SORRY.

IS A PLACE WHERE I CAN'T JUST ENTER.
LET'S STOP WITH THIS FRIEND-SHIP GAME ALREADY.
THAT'S ALL A THING OF THE PAST.
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO FIND ME.
EVEN IF YOU GAVE ME A SCARE ...
I'M STILL VERY HAPPY.
AZUMA.
THE TRUTH IS BOTH THEN AND NOW...
THAT YOU'RE ONLY KIND TO THOSE WHO ARE WEAK...
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A WORLD OF YOUR OWN
AND THAT PLACE...

EVEN THEN I KNEW...
YOU HID YOUR MOCKING FACE FROM ME...
WHEN I LEFT THE HOSPITAL AFTER ESCAPING DEATH, WE MADE A PROMISE...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO FORCE YOURSELF TO BE MY FRIEND
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER WITH ME ANYMORE
IT WAS LIKE THE PROMISE CAME AT THE PRICE OF MY RIGHT LEG...
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY FOR SO LONG
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT NOW.

I'M USED TO ALL THIS.
I'LL HANDLE MY OWN PROBLEMS.
JUST GO BACK..
PLEASE.
GRAB
!
AZUMA!
cough, OH...
cough
cough
WOBBLE
I'M TELLING YOU...!
WHO'D LISTEN TO A DRUNK?
PUMP

Demian Syndrome

volume 2 chapter 10a

Scanned by Yuriko
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Edited by Yohanasan
Quality Check by Kalendel

STORM IN HEAVEN
www.storminheaven.net
#storminheaven@irc.mchighway.net